Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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POLL RESULTS

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate the credibility of CUC's explanation for its power rate increases, 1 being equivalent to "highly questionable" and 10 equivalent to "totally credible"?

Option	Votes
1	125
2	9
3	6
4	2
5	3
6	4
7	5
8	5
9	1
10	24

Sunday, June 15, 2008, 8:00 PM

INSIDE

Flood Recedes

The dark, filthy water that flooded Iowa's second-largest city finally starts to recede.

NATION...Page 14

Quake Rescue

Japanese rescue teams try to dig their way to seven people believed trapped in a landslide.

ASIA...Page 15

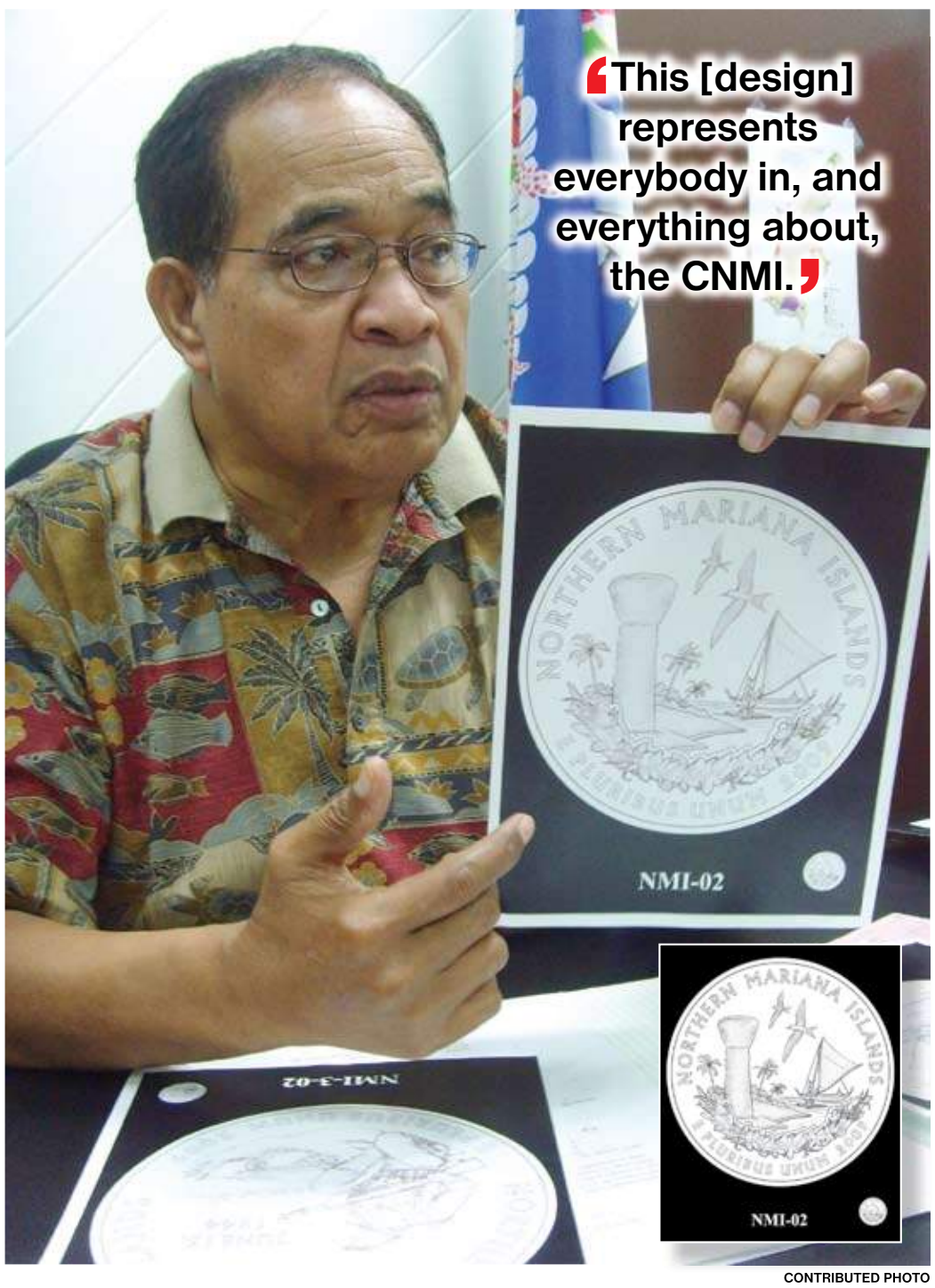
Korea Trip

It was after breakfast when we headed off to our first destination–the Gyeongsanbuk-Do Provincial Fisheries Resources Development Institute.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Matson to hike surcharge

4.5 percentage point increase boosts surcharge to 38.25 pct.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial shows the final design that has been selected for the CNMI commemorative quarter. Inset shows the particulars of the final design.

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Pointing to higher fuel costs, shipping company Matson Navigation Co. on Friday disclosed plans to hike its fuel surcharge for service to Saipan by 4.5 percentage points in a move that could increase costs at local stores dependent on off-island goods.

In a statement, Matson said the fuel surcharge will rise from 33.75 percent to 38.25 percent. The change will begin July 13.

"Escalating fuel prices have hit levels that are unprecedented and are adversely impacting virtually all businesses, as well as

See MATSON on Page 4

May tourist arrivals show slight increase

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Tenorio

Statistics released Sunday by the local tourism office, the Marianas Visitors Authority, show arrivals to the Commonwealth jumped slightly in May over last year due to an increase in visitors from key Asian markets.

The Commonwealth saw 31,203 visitors in May compared to 29,093 in the same month last year, a 7.25 percent jump. A boost in air service

See MVA on Page 4

NMI quarter design finalized

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has unveiled the design of the Northern Marianas' commemorative quarter.

The design—featuring a latte stone sitting on the shoreline, an outrigger canoe, a pair of white fairy terns, and a *mwar*—will be the last to be minted under the United States' popular coin program. It will go into circulation next year.

"This represents everybody in, and everything about, the CNMI," said the governor.

The design was based on narratives submitted by the CNMI's three-member commemorative

See FINAL on Page 4

CUC spends $9.5M a month, says Muna. **PAGE 2**
Public forum seeks solutions to CUC problems. **PAGE 3**

Local

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NURSES' FUNDRAISER

CNMI Nurses Association's president Lee Castro, vice president Bertha P. Camacho, secretary Cherry Castro, members and supporters gather for a photo during the CNMI Nurses Association's Fundraising dinner at the Hibiscus hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan Friday night.

CUC spends $9.5M a month, says Muna

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. needs to implement 100 percent cost recovery for utilities because CUC has been spending $9.5 million monthly, according to CUC executive director Antonio Muna.

On top of that, CUC has also been paying obligations to some contractors, he added.

Muna said they are paying $8 million a month just for fuel alone and another $1.5 million for monthly operating expenses.

Right now, based on their estimated actual projections, Muna said that CUC is looking at $8 million a month based on the current fuel price.

"The last fuel price we had was about $4.21 per gallon. So based on that particular price per gallon and if that continues going forward we are up to $ 8 million a month for fuel alone," he stressed.

Every three weeks CUC spend $3.5 million for diesel only.

He said the fuel includes the supply for Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico, Saipan, and for Tinian and Rota.

Muna added that in certain months such as in May, they had two fuel orders—on May 3 and May 31—that incurred them about $10 million.

He said the last six months ending on March 31, CUC's total operating expenses was $52,554,973.

"So if you look at $52.5 million divided by six months, that's about $8 million per month… and that doesn't include some of our obligations for our contracts," Muna said.

He earlier stated that, except for the Fitial administration, no other administration had the courage to actually implement 100 percent cost recovery for utilities.

Referring to the newly increased monthly electric rates, he said the Fitial administration is focused on fully resolving CUC's problems and was the first to go with full cost recovery.

Governor mulling several appointees to CPA board

The Fitial administration is now considering several appointees for the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board of directors.

One of the reasons CPA remains under the governor's direct control is the lack of a board to run the ports authority. All of the board members have resigned at the governor's request.

But Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Friday said he already has names in mind for Saipan, but not for Tinian and Rota. "I still have to consult the mayors on their recommendations," he said.

The CPA board of directors has seven members, including one representative each from Rota and Tinian.

The governor declined to say whether any of the old board members would be reappointed.

The board members who have resigned at the governor's request are former chairman Rex I. Palacios, Antonio Camacho, Connie Igisomar, Joe Lifoifoi, Alejo Mendiola, and Ray Cing. Another former member, Marian Tudela, has quit to accept another appointment to the NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees.

When he renewed the CPA state of emergency declaration last week, the governor said, "The resignation of all members of the board of directors of the CPA has resulted in an ongoing vacuum of leadership at the CPA."

"Lack of appropriate leadership brought the CPA to the brink of technical default on the March 1, 1998 indenture. Until strong and appropriate leadership is restored to the CPA board of directors the danger of technical default on the March 1, 1998 indenture will remain a significant risk to the CPA and the CNMI as a whole," he added. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Fitial yet to decide whom to endorse as delegate bet

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial says he will endorse a candidate for delegate, but he has not made up his mind as to who that candidate will be.

The NMI Republican Party has announced that Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio will be its candidate in the historic congressional election on Nov. 4, 2008. But the ruling Covenant Party has been silent about fielding any candidate.

"I have some people in mind, but I have not really considered which one I will endorse. I will make an announcement later," he said.

He declined to say whether the individuals he has in mind are among those who have declared their candidacy.

In addition to Tenorio, those who are running to become the Northern Marianas' first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives are Sen. Luis Crisostimo, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, and businessman Patrick M. Calvo.

Crisostimo, a member of the national Democratic Party, has said he will run as a Democrat. All of the other candidates are running independent. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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Public forum seeks solutions to CUC problems

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be asked to formally dispute their bills in a community forum being organized by a lawmaker and a private citizen.

The organizers of the event, Rep. Tina Sablan and Ed Propst, said the public forum is intended to provide a venue for discussing short-term and long-term solutions to the Commonwealth's power crisis. It will be held Tuesday, June 17, starting at 6pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

An initial list of action items will be presented for public comment. Ratepayers will also be urged to formally dispute their CUC bills.

"The disputes will serve not only as an act of protest against ever-increasing rates and a continuing lack of transparency and accountability at CUC, but more importantly as an act of solidarity by the long-suffering people of the CNMI to demand the efficient, reliable, and affordable utility services we all deserve," read a statement issued by the organizers.

"The goal of improved utilities demands not only short-term relief and decisive action by the local government, but also decisive and organized action by the CNMI's ratepayers, and long-term planning that involves the participation and cooperation of our entire community. The forum … is just the first step toward mobilizing our community toward that goal," the statement also said.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Ed Propst, publisher of MP magazine, and Rep. Tina Sablan talk to the media during Friday's press conference on the upcoming "Community Forum on CUC" to be held at the Multi-Purpose Center tomorrow, June 17, 2008, starting at 6pm.

Sablan, in an interview, said the call for billing disputes is justified, given the legal questions surrounding CUC's move to double the rates on May 3, 2008. She argued that CUC violated the law when it changed the rates in the middle of the billing cycle. A legal counsel for the House of Representatives has issued an opinion supporting this claim.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the administration welcomes suggestions from the community on how to deal with the power crisis.

"We understand there's a lot frustration in the community. It is a frustration we also share because of the oil prices that we do not control. Everyone knows that cost of fuel has been skyrocketing," said Reyes.

He added that the state of the power plant, which had been neglected for many years, is a major challenge for the government. "We're doing our best to fix that problem," he said.

But Reyes said it is "irresponsible" to urge the public to file billing disputes if there is no mistake in their billing. He said that the administration or CUC should not be blamed for the higher rates, which reflect the price of fuel.

The organizers said the forum is for finding solutions, not pointing fingers. "We are not a lynch mob. We're not calling for riots. We're only calling on people to be involved," said Propst.

They called on the public to "come with an open mind, your best ideas, at least three friends, and flashlights [in case of a power outage]." They also encouraged carpooling.

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AMONG THE OPTIONS UNDER FEDERALIZATION

'DHS-NMI deal to run guest worker program'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Homeland Security could form an agreement with the CNMI government in operating a guest worker program, according to federal ombudsman Jim Benedetto.

He said Homeland Security could forge an agreement with the CNMI government to use local facilities, equipment and personnel to run a guest worker program under the supervision of a federal agency.

The possible Homeland Security-CNMI agreement was among the options that the federal ombudsman believes may happen when the federalization law's implementation takes effect next year.

Asked about concerns by some CNMI Labor personnel on what will happen to them by next year, Benedetto said nobody knows yet what Homeland Security will do to implement the provision of the new law that requires them to establish, administer, and enforce the Commonwealth-only transitional worker program.

"Past U.S. guest-worker programs were almost entirely focused on temporary agricultural work, and did not really work very well," he said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*.

The ombudsman said another option that the Homeland Security might consider include entering into an interagency agreement with the Department of the Interior or with U.S. Department of Labor to establish and administer the program.

Homeland Security, Benedetto said, could also start from scratch and create its own program.

He said Homeland Security could also simply issue permits for Commonwealth Only Transitional Workers, as they do for workers who qualify for H-visas.

The ombudsman said under this system Homeland Security requires the employer to pay "prevailing wages" for the occupation, and provide a certification as to the working conditions, and let the workers seeks their own remedy if there is a dispute with an employer.

"Nobody will know what is going to happen for a little while longer, but I'm sure we will be discussing some of these ideas very soon," he added.

Benedetto recently attended meetings with various federal agencies in Washington D.C. on how to implement Public Law 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, the law that extends the application of the Immigration and Nationality Act to the CNMI.

He earlier stated that based on that meetings, he is convinced that Homeland Security people are prepared "to get the job done" with respect to extending federal control of NMI's immigration.

Benedetto said the people that he had met at Homeland Security are very motivated and sensitive to the vulnerability of the CNMI's economy.

"They seem to have a good sense of what they need to accomplish in the next 12 months," said the official.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

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MVA-RFP-08-2293

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/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 08-016
NMC Network Infrastructure Upgrades

The Northern Marianas College Bookstore is soliciting competitive sealed proposals upgrading of existing computer network infrastructure. Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Proposal Packages are due no later than 4:00 p.m., June 24th, 2008, Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

In accordance with CNMI Public Law 15-95 and 15-118, "Local Preference" does not apply and may not be submitted for this procurement. This procurement is wholly or partially funded from federal sources.

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All Proposers are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement; all individuals, and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/ Duane R.T. Sablan
Acting, NMC Procurement Officer

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SSHS looks forward to a 'golden summer'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite fears that the long summer vacation will lead to a number of problems among school children, the Saipan Southern High School is looking forward to a more productive and educational summer that will benefit students of the CNMI.

"Before we start airing misguided concerns that somehow our children in the CNMI are going to turn into delinquent minors who will do more drinking, smoking, graffiti, and sexual activities over the summer, let's have a little faith, not only in the Public School System, but in our children," said SSHS vice principal Craig Garrison.

He said that students "are not so naïve that they are not aware of the dangers in our society. They know that peer pressure is out there. They know right from wrong, they are young adults capable of making good decisions."

He added that those who have been getting into trouble over the summer will most likely be the same ones "who have been in trouble all along—and that is a law enforcement issue, not a public school issue."

Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita said the community would need to work together and not place all responsibility for the children on PSS.

"As parents, we need to also find activities for our children outside of school, to work with the various organizations and place our children where we, as parents, see fit for our children, and also guide them as to what is the best use of the extra time they will now have outside the school year," Blanco-Maratita said.

Garrison said that with the help of the Department of Public Safety, parents, and "our unconditional love for our students," this period will be a "golden summer," one which will provide opportunity, education and much deserved funds for the students in the CNMI "who have completed a year of trial and tribulation with power outages, lack of water, cutting back on gas, skipping meals, wearing the same clothes, and a host of sacrifices that as children they should not have to bear."

SSHS is offering a full summer school program open to all high school students in the CNMI free of charge. The subjects included in this year's summer school program are general subjects and elective sessions on post-production film and video.

Garrison is encouraging the entire community "to look into the eyes of your children and simply just ask 'What can I do for you this summer,' and make that your priority."

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Samoa PM clarifies land registration bill

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Samoa's Prime Minister, Tuila'epa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi, has made it clear that under the Government's land registration bill customary lands cannot be sold or owned as freehold property. The final reading of the controversial bill is scheduled for Friday after Parliament went through all the provisions including amendments. The Prime Minister says no commercial bank would lend money if customary land was used as collateral knowing that under the provisions of the legislation the land couldn't be sold to recover the funds. It means the bank will only make a claim based on other valuable assets and not the land itself.

ACP ministers concerned about economic agreements

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Times/PIR)—The 87th African, Caribbean and the Pacific Council of Ministers Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia opened June 9 with the Group expressing concern about the way most aspects of the Economic Partnership Agreements have progressed. The President of the Council of the Ministers and Minister In Charge of National Solidarity of Djibouti, Mohamed Ahmed Aweleh, when opening the meeting said the EPAs in their current form risk distorting regional integration. In hopes of meeting the 2007 deadlines for completing negotiations on the EPAs, the European Commission and the ACP States were pressured by time and ended up signing interim agreements in smaller trading blocs or individually rather than the groups originally intended in order to meet the December 31, 2007 deadline.

Solomons tries to reduce the root of ethnic tensions

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—One of the Government's key plans, aimed at addressing the root causes of the ethnic tension, is a step closer to being finalized following Fiji and Vanuatu's commitment to support the Solomon Islands Government initiative. The initiative involves a plan by the Coalition for National Unity and Rural Advancement Government to set up a commission of inquiry into land dealings and lost property on Guadalcanal as a result of the ethnic tension. A Government press statement says that Prime Minister Dr. Derek Sikua has got the support of Fiji and Vanuatu, both agreeing to provide two commissioners for the commission.

Guadalcanal province to support disaster office

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Guadalcanal Province premier Stephen Panga and his executive have confirmed they will allocate a piece of land for a disaster office at Doma as soon as they start building the new Headquarters. He said work on the new headquarters will begin around August this year. He said his government places huge importance on disaster management and as such has allocated thirty-thousand dollars as standby money in its budget, the first time a Guadalcanal Province government has done this. Panga made this commitment in the National Disaster Management Office's ongoing Provincial advocacy meetings this morning at the NDMO office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two other coin designs prepared by U.S. Mint artists that were not selected. The one on the left is similar to the chosen design, but did not include the mwar. The third design shows the islands' role in World War II, showing armed soldiers and using the date "June 15, 1944," when the historic Battle of Saipan began.

FINAL

From Page 1

coin commission, made up of the governor's special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, attorney Teresa Kim, and Catherine Perry Anderson.

It was one of the three designs prepared by U.S. Mint artists. One of the other designs is similar to the chosen design, but did not include the mwar. The third design shows the islands' role in World War II, showing armed soldiers and using the date "June 15, 1944," when the historic Battle of Saipan began.

The commission said it picked the final design because it depicts the Commonwealth's indigenous culture, natural resources, and virtues of hospitality and respect.

The latte stone is a pre-historic pillar of the Chamorros, carved from limestone and believed to have held up structures. The outrigger canoe represents the Carolinians, who for centuries have used traditional navigational skills.

The shoreline, ocean, and sky—as depicted by the white fairy terns, which are endemic to the Northern Marianas and are usually seen flying in pairs—represent the "common wealth" of the people.

The Carolinian *mwar*, or head lei, is a welcoming gesture to visitors and also symbolic of the virtues of honor and respect.

The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Marianas were not included in the 50 state commemorative quarter coin program initiated in 1998. State quarters began circulating in 1999 in the order they were admitted into the union. The program was slated to end this year. About 30 billion coins have been minted thus far.

In December 2007, President Bush signed a law extending the program to the nation's capital and the insular areas.

The new quarters will be minted in 2009, starting with the District of Columbia coin.

According to the Mint, nearly half of all Americans collect the state quarters.

MATSON

From Page 1

consumers," said Dave Hoppes, senior vice president of ocean services for Matson. "For transportation companies, fuel related expenses are unavoidable."

The last time Matson raised its fuel surcharge was on April 6.

Rising fuel costs linked to the climbing global price of oil have prompted a host of businesses on Saipan to increase costs or alter service in recent weeks. Continental Airlines, for example, said last week that it will end its direct service to Manila on July 16, citing a spike in jet fuel prices. Bottled water companies on the island are in the midst of a price increase connected to rising fuel costs. And a liquid petroleum company also recently boosted its prices.

Matson noted similar increases in the fuel surcharge for its service elsewhere in the Pacific, including Guam and Hawaii. The company also pointed to steps it has taken previously to cut back its fuel consumption in order to prevent a price hike, such as slowing the speed of container ships.

Matson's fuel costs have risen 27 percent recently, the company said in its statement, adding that unless rising costs are tempered, it may be necessary to boost the surcharge again in the future.

Matson provides ocean transportation services to Hawaii, Guam, China and Micronesia, as well as logistics services through its subsidiary, Matson Integrated Logistics.

MVA

From Page 1

from Japan might account for a significant portion of that increase, according to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, who touted the new figures in a statement.

"The growth of our primary markets, Japan and Korea, are reflective of the commitment and support of our travel industry members." Tenorio said.

The announced rise in visitors comes only days after MVA board chair Jerry Tan disclosed that Asiana Airlines is poised to begin making daily flights along its Incheon-to-Saipan route, a move that could boost tourism even further.

In the Japanese tourism market, Tenorio said the Commonwealth saw a 5-percent increase in visitors, a rise attributable to a 20-percent jump in the number of seats now available on Japanese air service to Saipan.

Korean tourism has increased every month this year, Tenorio said, including May, a change due to a higher number of airline seats. The number of tourists from Korea rose 31 percent over last year to 9,925.

Russian tourism also saw significant growth in May by 156 percent, though only 351 Russian tourists arrived in the Commonwealth.

Among the major tourism islands in the Commonwealth, Saipan saw a 7-percent increase in arrivals in May over last year. Rota saw a 23-percent boost, yet Tinian curiously saw a 17-percent drop in visitors.

"[T]he outlook of tourism is positive due to the increase in anticipated air seats out of Japan and Korea," Tenorio said.

First aid kits to arrive soon at dive spots

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Scuba divers on Saipan can take comfort in the knowledge that potentially life-saving first aid kits will soon be on hand at some of the island's most popular dive spots.

"This will be good on so many levels," said John Hirsch, executive director of Saipan's local Red Cross chapter, which is funding the effort. "There's a real need for it here in the community."

The $8,000 kits—containing automatic electric defibrillators able to jumpstart a stopped heart, an oxygen tank, an epinephrine injector pen and basic first aid equipment—could guard against episodes like the November 2007 death of Myung Hyun Song, according to Mike Tripp, a dive instructor and video producer who has organized the plan.

Song, a Korean tourist, had cancelled a dive while at Lau Lau Bay after complaining of chest pains and later collapsed on the beach. The rough roads leading to the bay prevented an ambulance from reaching her before she died, Tripp noted.

"One thing that could have helped her would have been an automatic defibrillator," Tripp said. "This could definitely save lives."

Kits will be placed at three dive sites on Saipan, Tripp said, the Grotto, Lau Lau Beach and Obyan. The security company tasked with guarding those sites, G4S Security Services, will bring them to the sites each morning in large cases and leave with them at the end of each day, he added.

Before the kits are put in place, however, Tripp and Hirsch plan to start a training program to instruct the security staff and divers on how to use the defibrillators and basic first aid, with the first training course set to begin in the coming weeks.

"The goal is to have all of the dive instructors on island be trained," Tripp said, adding he is considering whether to approach local government officials about proposing a regulation that would require dive companies to have staff proficient in first aid.

Yet for now, the first aid kits will themselves will give nervous tourists the reassurance they might need to give Saipan's world renowned diving sites a try.

"It shows tourists the dive companies here are proactive about safety," Tripp added.

COMEDY NIGHT
Guam's talented funny man Frank Rios entertains the crowd during Club V's "Frank Rios Live and in Living Color" comedy show at the Saipan Grand Hotel Friday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Two men rescue tourist from near drowning in Managaha

A man and a lifeguard rescued a 61-year-old tourist from nearly drowning on the waters surrounding Managaha Island Thursday at noon.

Hiroshi Yoshijima, a Japanese male, was treated at the Commonwealth Health Center and placed under observation for having fluid in the lungs, according to the Department of Public Safety.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said two minutes after they received a report about the incident on Thursday at 12:06pm, a boat carrying Yoshijima arrived at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Ogumoro said preliminary investigation showed that Yoshijima and two family members were swimming at the northern end of Managaha Island.

While swimming, one of the family members noticed the victim floating face down on the surface of the water and was motionless.

The relative started yelling for help, prompting a Japanese man to jump into the water and pull the victim out of the water and onto the shore.

Yoshijima was observed breathing heavily. An on-duty lifeguard, Leo Wania, was at the southern end of the island when he was immediately notified.

Wania assisted Yoshijima by placing him in the recovery position. A Tasi Tour boat later arrived and transported the victim to Smiling Cove Marina, where medics brought him to CHC. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Guard in 'ice' trafficking pleads guilty

A security guard has entered a guilty plea on charges he was involved in selling methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

In Friday's hearing, Greggory Sablan Kalen pleaded guilty to distribution and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson accepted the defendant's plea and set the sentencing for Sept. 23, 2008 at 9am.

Munson granted Kalen's request to be allowed to work as a security guard for Japanese Enterprises Corp. during daytime hours.

Greggory Kalen, also known as G., Goro, and Greggory Sablan Kani; Lawrence Kalen; and Manuel A. Sablan, also known as Manny Sablan, were indicted on one count of conspiracy to distribute "ice", and two counts of distribution and possession with intent to distribute "ice."

According to the indictment, the three conspired to distribute "ice" on Dec. 1 to 13, 2007.

Greggory Kalen and counsel F. Matthew Smith entered a plea agreement with the U.S. government. The court accepted the plea agreement.

Munson ordered that Greggory Kalen remain at liberty under the same bail conditions as the court had previously imposed. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Fitial wishes more autonomy for CNMI

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has expressed a yearning for increased autonomy for the Northern Marianas in a speech before the Filipino community on Saipan.

Fitial was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony for the 110th Philippine Independence Day celebration in Garapan yesterday.

Addressing a crowd of nearly 1,000 Filipinos, the governor said the Philippines should be proud of its status as an independent nation. Meanwhile, he rued the Commonwealth's loss of immigration and minimum wage controls.

"As we renew our commitment to CNMI-Philippine friendship and remind ourselves of our many similarities and shared experiences, let us be sure not to lose sight of our celebration of Philippine Independence Day," Fitial said.

"Unlike the CNMI, the Philippines is an independent nation with its own democratically elected government, with its own national currency and national identity. The CNMI is still a territory of the United States, subject to many U.S. laws, including, more recently, the U.S. immigration and minimum wage legislation," Fitial said.

He traced the shared history of the Northern Marianas and the Philippines—from Spanish colonialism to Japanese occupation, and finally "a challenging but rewarding relationship with the United States." He noted that, while the CNMI chose close political affiliation with the United States, the Philippines chose independence from foreign rule.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Children line up as they try to break the piñata in order to collect the sweets and toys inside during the traditional "Pistang Pinoy" in celebration of the 110th Philippine Independence Day at the Garapan Central Park Sunday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Philippine Consul General to the CNMI Wilfredo DL. Maximo, Consul Belinda Ante, Labor Representative Joan Lourdes Lavilla, OWWA welfare officer Leonor Mabagal, United Filipino Organization's Flor Miranda and Ed Reyes gather for a photo during the traditional "Pistang Pinoy" at the Garapan Central Park Sunday afternoon.

Members of the Boholano Association and United Filipino Organizations gather for a photo during the "Pistang Pinoy."

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Bayani Association dance troupe perform a traditional Filipino dance number.

The hardworking officers and organizing committee members of the United Filipino Organizations gather for a photo during the successful "Pistang Pinoy" event.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The Fat Joy Slim band entertains the crowd with their acoustic repertoire during the "Pistang Pinoy" at the Garapan Central Park Sunday afternoon.

"It is for this reason that we come together today to celebrate the Philippines as an independent nation in the world. Regardless of the state of the Philippine economy or politics, Filipinos should be proud of their national independence," he said.

Fitial went on to cite two quotations from former Philippine President Manuel L. Quezon. One quote is: "I prefer a country run like hell by Filipinos to a country run like heaven by Americans. Because, however bad a Filipino government might be, we can always change it." The other is, "My loyalty to my party ends where my loyalty to my country begins."

The governor said he wished more CNMI elected leaders shared the same sentiment.

The Fitial administration has had a rocky relationship with the U.S. government. The governor and federal officials have publicly argued over recently passed legislation to have Washington, D.C. determine the local minimum wage and take over the CNMI's immigration control.

Ha, Cabrera top MCS commencement exercise

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Mount Carmel School held its 12th grade commencement exercise at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral on June 12, with Soo Ji Ha named as the class Valedictorian and Letitia W. Cabrera as Salutatorian.

SOO JI HA
Valedictorian

LETITIA W. CABRERA
Salutatorian

RUBY ANN VENUS
Governor's Leadership Award

CLAIRE DINA CABRERA
Bishop Tomas A. Camacho Christian Service Award

Ha, 18, the daughter of Soojeong Ku and Young Soo Ha, also received the Presidential Award for Meritorious Service.

"I was very astonished and it was really hard because I had stiff competition at our school," said Ha, a consistent honor student.

Before MCS, Ha attended Saipan Community School during her junior high school years, where she also received the Valedictorian award. She also bagged several honors in elementary.

In school, she was involved in the mock trial tournament, Junior Statesmen of America, beach cleanups, the National Honor Society, the Drama Club and the American Red Cross.

She intends to go to the University of Michigan where she plans to major in International Relations, saying she wants to be a diplomat or lawyer.

She plans to return to Saipan after her studies because her families are residents of the island. "I would really want to keep in contact with all of my former teachers and classmates," she added.

Salutatorian Letitia W. Cabrera is the daughter of Queenie and Jose Cabrera.

"Although I am happy that we will have a better future, and hopefully come back and make the CNMI a better place," said Cabrera, "I feel kind of sad because of the fact that we will be going our separate ways, it's hard to lose some close friends."

"My life in high school was special, promising, eventful, and so much more," she added. She wishes the rest of the graduating class good luck in their future endeavors.

In school, Cabrera was active in the Debate Club, Mock Trial, Junior Statesmen of America, National Honor Society, and Theatre Club.

Cabrera plans to go to Washington, D.C. and attend the Elliot School of International Affairs in George Washington University. She wants to work as a diplomat or negotiator in the future.

The Bishop Tomas Camacho Christian Service Award was conferred on Claire Dina Cabrera, while the Governor's Leadership Award went to Ruby Ann Venus.

The keynote speaker for the event was lawyer Janet King of the Public Defender's Office and a Northern Marianas College regent.

This year's graduating class was composed of 36 students, who chose *At the Beginning* as their graduation song.

"You [graduates] have given my life meaning and purpose," said principal Galvin Deleon Guerrero during his closing remarks. "You are ready, and you've been ready to set out on your own."

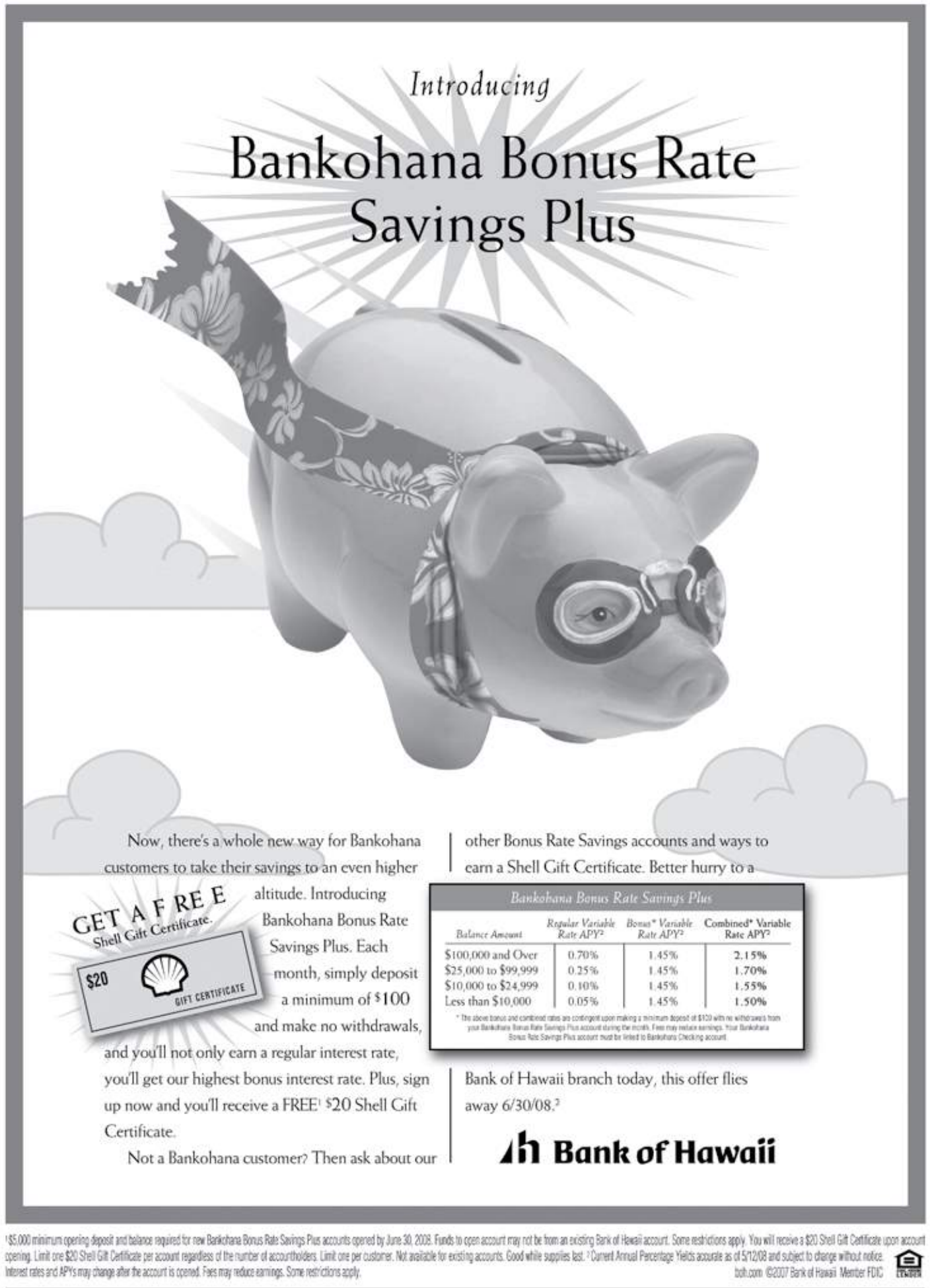
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
MCS principal Galvin Guerrero delivers his heartwarming remarks for the graduates.

Mt. Carmel School Class of 2008 graduates sing the senior class song "At the Beginning".

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

English Language Arts	Ruby Ann Venus
Honorable Mention	Letitia Cabrera
Science	Ruby Ann Venus
Honorable Mention	Hanna Hofschneider
Mathematics	Soo Ji Ha
Honorable Mention	Kevin Scott Sablan
Social Studies	Soo Ji Ha
Honorable Mention	Letitia Cabrera
Theology	Claire Dina Cabrera
Honorable Mention	Letitia Cabrera
Fine Arts	Letitia Cabrera
Honorable Mention	Ruby Ann Venus
Foreign Language (Japanese)	Hee Yong Yoon
Honorable Mention	Mi Ran Lee
Speech	Ruby Ann Venus
Honorable Mention	Soo Ji Ha
Drama	Letitia Cabrera
Honorable Mention	Ruby Ann Venus
Physical Education	
Male	Kristian Daniel Aquino
Female	Chanelle Manglona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$10,000 to $24,999 | 0.10% | 1.45% | 1.55%
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LENDER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 8th grade graduating class of the Seventh Day Adeventist School: Joy Lacorte, Keisuke O. Yoshida, Yuko Takayma, Shanie Torres Camacho, Kono Luxly Remeliik, Michitaka O. Yoshida, Tekoi Nicholas and Louie Richard Nigh.

Lacorte tops SDA 8th grade graduation

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

The Seventh Day Adventist School held its 8th grade graduation June 4 at the Saipan SDA Clinic Center in Chalan Laulau, promoting eight students to high school this year.

Joy Bariso Lacorte was named the school's Valedictorian this year. She is the daughter of Jho and Ernesto Lacorte. Ernesto is chief financial officer and Jho is the office manager, both at the SDA Clinic.

JOY BARISO LACORTE
Valedictorian

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joy Bariso Lacorte poses with her mom Jho and dad Ernesto Lacorte after the graduation ceremony.

"I felt very blessed, accomplished and great that I achieved the goal of getting the Valedictorian award," said Joy.

The Salutatorian award was conferred on Keisuke O. Yoshida, who was also the class' sergeant-at-arms.

The other six students that graduated were class vice president Yuko Takayma, treasurer Shanie Torres Camacho, secretary Kono Luxly Remeliik, pastor Michitaka O. Yoshida, sergeant-at-arms Tekoi Nicholas and Louie Richard Nigh.

Incidentally, Joy Lacorte's mother recently graduated cum laude during the Northern Marianas College's 28th Commencement Exercise. Jho graduated with an associate degree in Nursing.

"I want to express my warmest congratulations to both Jho and Joy," said Ernesto Lacorte.

Both parents are proud of their daughter's achievements. "I want her to maintain and keep having those good grades," said Ernesto.

Joy Lacorte will still be attending SDA next school year and wants to major in the medical field on the future.

"My parents told me that they were really proud and glad for me, because they really helped me get to this point," Joy said.

In school, Lacorte is actively involved in sports such as volleyball and a drama group called Real Christian Theatre. She was also the class president.

'Film misrepresents Cook Islanders'

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News, June 13, 2008)—Concern has been raised over 'misrepresentation' of the Cook Islands and its people in the new American film Nim's Island.

The film, which premiered here last weekend, has raised eyebrows over the mistakes and insinuations made in the film.

The film features Jodie Foster and showcases people of 'Rarotonga' as being poor, beggars and illiterate.

One concern has been its effect if any on the tourism industry.

However, Tourism Cook Islands manager Anne Lyon says they have not received any feedback about the film from the local industry, their overseas representatives or tourists since the movie was first released in April.

"The letter to the editor in Monday's Cook Islands News was the first remark which has been made. It is a reasonable comment as the brief clip which showed the Rarotonga sign and the market place scene was certainly not a true representation of our beautiful island.

"Movie-goers understand that a great deal of 'creative license' is used in film making and in a movie of this type, an adult will understand that it is not a true depiction of anywhere but a fantasy movie aimed at young children," says Lyon.

She says that Nim's Island continues to receive excellent reviews with critics describing it as "magical", "eye dazzling", "wondrous", "warm hearted" and a "combination of Robinson Crusoe and Home Alone".

"These are the thoughts the audience will take away from the movie, not the somewhat short film shot of an overcrowded market scene of fantasy Rarotonga," she says.

Nim's Island is an adventure-fantasy film produced by Walden Media.

'Seabed mining may be highly destructive'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—An Australia-based NGO is encouraging Pacific governments to take a closer look at the potential devastation of sea-bed mining.

The Mineral Policy Institute is one of a number of groups raising concerns about the Canadian mining company, Nautilus Minerals, has made sea bed test extractions in PNG's exclusive economic zone.

Nautilus is also starting explorations in Tonga, and has lodged exploration licence applications in Fiji and Solomon Islands.

Although Nautilus says a yet to be published scientific impact study found sea-bed mining is environmentlly safe, the International Seabed Authority (ISA) sees mining as destructive.

The institute's spokesperon, Techa Beaumont, says that regional governments need to consider this before they sign away the sea-bed in their EEZ to mining companies.

"The international experience around shared ocean areas is that the International Seabed Authority has taken a very conservative approach and hasn't permitted companies to undertake these activities in international waters, largely because they saw them as potentially very damaging," Beaumont said.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 16, 1999

Tinian moves to stop Rota's casino plan
Tinian lawmakers will offer a legislative initiative forbidding Rota to establish its own casino operations in a move that observers believe will throw Saipan legislators right into the growing rift between the two island municipalities. Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano is set to introduce the legislation making the high-roller gambling business exclusive to Tinian in a bid to stop the Rota delegation from pressing its own initiative on the establishment of casino on the island.

Hillblom Estate settles $9.5 million tax obligation
Bank of Saipan, which serves as the Executor of the Larry Hillblom Estate, yesterday turned over to the Department of Finance a $9.5 million worth of check representing payment of the Estate's tax obligations to the government. BOS director Ben Fitial handed the check to finance officials during a simple ceremony at the Governor's Office in Capitol Hill.

CNMI to host Pacific educators summit
Educators from the Pacific will gather next month for the biggest regional academic summit which will discuss, among other things, changes in technology and how the education sector can explore and take advantage of them. "The conference will give leaders involved in education the opportunity to interact with other people and ask questions. Everybody will have the chance to share ideas and learn from one another," said Rep. Malua T. Peter, chairman of the Pacific Education Conference 1999 organizing committee.

June 16, 2000

Housing program failed to help poor
The current housing loan program funded by money from the Marianas Public Land Trust has failed to assist indigent or low income families of Northern Marianas descent due to high interest rates, according to Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider who is now seeking to turn around the system. He has asked for thorough review by the House of Representatives on a bill that will provide additional $3.8 million to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation to continue the program.

Chamber presses for lifting of 3-year limit
Businesses yesterday emphasized to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio the urgency of creating an investment-friendly climate in the CNMI by repealing laws which hamper the growth of business in the Northern Marianas. Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Lynn Knight said representatives from different businesses pressed for the lifting of the three-year stay limit imposed on nonresident workers during a dialogue with the governor.

CDA expands loan portfolio
Faced with depleting funds due to the increasing number of loan applicants, the Commonwealth Development Authority is laying the ground work for a possible expansion of its risks through partnership agreements with federal agencies. CDA Executive Director Marylou S. Ada disclosed the CNMI government controlled lending agency's portfolio is slowly getting saturated which may soon not able to accommodate all qualified loan applications for start-up capital or supplemental funding.

June 16, 2003

Landowners bugging MPLA
Delayed land payments try patience of landowners
The Marianas Public Lands Authority gets an average of 10-15 complaints a day from landowners whose lands have long been taken by the government but have not been paid yet. "We're receiving calls from impatient landowners. Well, actually they are very patient landowners who have become frustrated," said MPLA commissioner Henry S. Hofschneider.

'CUC didn't evaluate SK's proposal'
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. awarded its two-year fuel supply contract to Mobil Marianas without evaluating the proposal of its lone competitor, Pacific Petroleum Corp. or the regional representative of the Korean-based SK Shipping. In an April 24 letter of CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta to PPC chief operating officer Richard Reddy, she said the CUC found that SK Shipping proposal was "non-responsive" to CUC's Request for Proposal and was therefore "not susceptible to evaluation."

Ban eyed on fish-attracting devices in NMI waters

HONOLULU—The Scientific and Statistical Committee, which advises the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, concluded its three-day meeting in Honolulu on Friday with a variety of recommendations for commercial and non-commercial fisheries in offshore waters of the U.S. Pacific Islands.

For the CNMI, the committee recommended restrictions on the use of fishery aggregation devices by purse seiners in waters surrounding the Commonwealth, considered a U.S. exclusive economic zones. The Council is also set to act on the recommended control dates for the CNMI longline and Hawaii charter vessel fisheries.

These recommendations will be considered by the Council when it convenes June 16 to 19, 2008, at the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu. Decisions made by the Council are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval.

Among the key recommendations made by the SSC are the following:

1. Establishment of annual catch limits to prevent overfishing as mandated by the 2007 reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

■ Implement ACLs immediately for all species/species groups with estimated maximum sustainable yield values except for those species/species groups managed under international regional fishery management organizations. Currently, only bottomfish falls within this category. MSY is also known for tuna, but it along with billfish, mahimahi, ono and other tuna-like species are managed by RFMOs.

For all other species/species groups, establish ACLs on a priority basis according to their risk of overfishing.

■ Implement federal permitting and reporting requirements for all managed fisheries in order to reduce scientific and management uncertainty.

The SSC noted that ACLs are an expensive approach as each catch limit must be determined annually and catches must be monitored on a near real-time basis. The scientists also expressed concern that needed biomass estimates are lacking for many managed species. Moreover, stock assessments are conducted annually at best, and one year is insufficient to evaluate the biological response of most fish stocks. The scientists noted that limiting fishing capacity may therefore be a more effective approach.

2. Ongoing efforts to determine the annual total allowable catch (TAC) for seven deep-water species of Hawaii bottomfish that are experiencing overfishing.

■ Continue to request that NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center complete a new comprehensive stock assessment for Hawaii bottomfish species and that it also refine historical bottomfish data so it is suitable for use in future stock assessments.

■ The SSC did not support continuation of the risk assessment model being developed by PIFSC as it does not include Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and main Hawaiian Islands components and other needed features.

3. Hawaii Longline Swordfish Effort

■ Concurred with the Council's preferred alternative to modify management measures for the Hawaii longline fishery for swordfish by removing the current set effort for the fleet; setting annual hard caps for turtle interactions at 46 loggerhead and 19 leatherback turtles; and discontinuing the set certificate program.

The SSC noted that, based on PIFSC analyses, the proposed turtle interaction caps do not appear to have significant adverse impacts on the loggerhead and leatherback populations.

4. Hawaii Offshore Non-longline Pelagic Fishery

■ Establish a federal permit and reporting system to improve data collection and understanding of the fishery, to document any future management needs and to provide the basis for establishing a limited entry program. The SSC did not oppose establishing a limited entry program for this fishery.

5. Fishery Aggregation Devices

■ Classify all floating objects that have been purposefully deployed or enhanced and used as FADs.

■ Limit all FAD associated fishing to registered FADs only.

■ Restrict use of FAD sets by purse seiners in U.S. exclusive economic zone waters around American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Hawaii.

When the Council meets next week, it is scheduled to take action on all the above items as well as on an implementation framework for the Community Development Program, which promotes involvement of indigenous communities in fisheries; management options for small-scale fisheries, which are facing increasing economic and bureaucratic constraints; and control dates for the CNMI longline and Hawaii charter vessel fisheries.

A control date is frequently established when the Council begins considering a new limited entry program or the revision of an existing program. A control date tells the public that the Council may recommend that activities occurring after that date not count toward qualification for the limited entry program (or modification) being considered.

Public comments will be taken at the Council meeting prior to decision-making on these issues. For more information including a complete agenda, go to www.wpcouncil.org or contact the Council in Hawaii at 808 522-8220 or info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov.

The Council is the policy-making agency for fisheries management in offshore waters surrounding the State of Hawaii, Territory of American Samoa, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands and the US Pacific remote island areas. ***(WESPAC)***

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Matthew Lopez, shown here with his dad Joel, who recently graduated from San Vicente Elementary School with top 5 honors and for winning first place in the Science Fair. Greetings come from your dad Joel, mom Lovely, and sisters Mikyla, Maxine, and Marielle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cooks developing floriculture industry

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—Flower power is coming to the country as 6,000 orchids and 4,000 anthurium plantlets of assorted colors will be imported as part of an agriculture project to strengthen floriculture development in the Cook Islands.

The plants will be brought in this year and early next year, and will be split evenly between the islands of Rarotonga and Aitutaki.

The first shipment will be used on Rarotonga, and Aitutaki will get their plants next year.

The shipments of orchids is part of a $US234,000 FAO (Food & Agriculture Organization) project that is hoped to encourage business opportunities in floriculture both locally and for the export market.

FAO consultant Mohammed Umar was in the country during the past two weeks to finalise arrangements on both Rarotonga and Aitutaki, as preparations get under way for the training to start in September this year.

Ministry of Agriculture secretary Nga Mataio says that before any training can begin, two shade houses have to be built on both islands, including a third shed for the tools.

There will be a shade house each for the orchids and anthurium, plus a shed for storage of nursery equipment and supplies. This will be the same for Aitutaki.

Mataio says the plants will include colours that are either not available or readily available here on the island, and those that are in big demand on the international markets.

The orchids and anthurium were chosen because they are both in high demand, locally and overseas, and they are long lasting flowers.

Umar and Mataio were in Aitutaki last week looking at a possible site for the project there, and other necessary requirements. They also had a fruitful meeting on the island to raise awareness of the project.

Joseph Dela Cruz and Virginia A. Cruz
P.O. Box 7322 SVRB
Saipan, MP
Telephone No. 256-4837

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: GEORLYN MANAHANE MANGLONA, Minor Child, by JOSEPH C. DELA CRUZ and VIRGINIA A. CRUZ, Petitioners.	**FCD AD NO. 08-0303** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named minor children by Joseph Dela Cruz and Virginia A. Cruz Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING for the said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 23rd day of June, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DIRECTOR OF COURTS
CNMI JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Supreme Court announces the position of Director of Courts for the CNMI Judicial Branch.

NATURE OF WORK: This position will be the executive head of the administrative division of the CNMI Judicial Branch and will work under the general and immediate supervision of the Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court. The Director of Courts will have direct management and supervision over the clerical, professional and other support personnel with the exception of the Justices, Judges, and their Law Clerks and Secretaries. The Director will be responsible for planning, directing and supervising staff of the CNMI Judicial Branch in the areas of administration including personnel and fiscal management, budget analysis and preparation, procurement, contract negotiations, programs and project development, public relations, and related work.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Director should hold an advanced degree from an accredited United States institution and a minimum of a bachelor's degree with five years managerial/supervisory experience. Preference will be given to an applicant who has knowledge of the principles of government budgetary processes, personnel management, contract procedures, and the political processes.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be negotiable.

INTERESTED PERSONS should send their resume and current application to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honorable Miguel S. Demapan at the Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan. For additional information about this position, call (670) 236-9708. Resume and application must be received by 12:00 noon on June 30, 2008.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 08-017

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Renovation of Oleai Elementary School's Basketball Court.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work, for a non-refundable fee of $ 4.00, is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-017" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than July 1, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-017, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination", containing one (1) original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp.**

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz
Acting P & S Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

The name game

What's in a name? For Ali Rahimian, it may be the difference between a quick path to citizenship and a two-year sentence to immigration purgatory. Dr. Rahimian has lived in the Washington area for 17 years, and, among other useful pursuits, has helped operate a free clinic for people who lack medical insurance. Two years ago, Rahimian, who was born in Iran, applied to become a U.S. citizen. His application was sent to the FBI for what should have been a routine background check, and Rahimian said he has not heard from the bureau since.

The applications of hundreds of thousands of legal immigrants such as Rahimian are mired in FBI bureaucracy, according to a recent audit by the Justice Department inspector general. The audit found that the FBI's National Name Check Program, designed to be a security vetting of immigrants applying to be citizens, is relying on outdated technology and poorly trained workers. Some immigrants awaiting resolution are denied the right to work or to study. And, significant in an election year, they are denied the chance to vote.

More than 300,000 citizenship requests were pending as of March, according to the audit. Although the FBI handles 90 percent of these claims in less than a month, some take as long as three years. The backlog exists although the FBI increased its name-check workforce significantly in recent months. One unnamed FBI employee told investigators that the workforce increase, and other measures the FBI has taken to reduce the backlog, are "small Band-Aids" applied to the problem.

The problem isn't just the size of the FBI's workforce, it's the agency's overall approach. The FBI doesn't have a sound way to measure the program's effectiveness, so it doesn't know whether an elaborate name-check process prevents terrorism. To improve the efficiency of the process, the FBI should implement the inspector general's recommendations, including a formal training curriculum and quality assurance measures. Most important, the FBI should update its name-matching tool, which relies on an algorithm that was developed in the early 1900s.

Fortunately, the FBI is realizing it cannot continue business as usual. Michael Cannon, chief of the name-check program, said the FBI is receptive to the audit and is complying with many of the inspector general's recommendations. Since March, the FBI has reduced the number of immigrants waiting more than a year by two-thirds, to 40,000, Cannon said. He hopes to reduce that number to zero by November. These changes can't come too soon. The FBI has been punishing the immigrants who are most deserving of citizenship: those who play by the rules.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Can't we smile and be courteous?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The other day I went into a store to buy an item. As I approached the clerk to ask where it was on the shelf, she turned to me with a scowl on her face which said, "Can't you see I am busy?" I was so furious I almost screamed, but instead I walked out of the store without purchasing what I had come in to get. Later that day I had to go to one of the government agency offices to inquire about a problem. Three of the employees were huddled over a computer chatting and laughing. I waited a moment and then softly said, "Hi, can someone help me?" They turned to look at me as though to say, "Can't you see we are busy? Wait until we finish." Wow! I thought. Excuse me for breathing.

Aren't you fed up with these attitudes toward us both in the government and in the private sector when we approach for assistance. Have you ever experienced the same rudeness? I don't know how you feel about it, but it is time to consider changing those insulting attitudes. When a clerk stares at me or ignores me, a sudden flash of red rushes to my head and I want to scream. But I hold my temper. Aren't these people employed to serve us and make us feel good while we purchase an item or a service?

Patiently I stand and wait for some response. Finally the person turns and with a blank look gives out a grunt. I hang my head and repeat my request. This is the average courtesy we receive daily. Why is that? Why are so many employees so rude and indifferent?

To me the only explanation is that the rude or disinterested employee is a very unhappy person. He/she has little motivation for what he/she is doing. But, you know, I really shouldn't blame him completely. I really blame the supervisor or manager because that is the attitude and lack of training conveyed to the employee from above. It is unfortunate that these so-called managers must be reminded why they are in positions of responsibility.

Especially when competition is very keen, I would imagine that every tool would be used to treat customers with respect and win their loyalty so that they keep returning. In my own companies, whenever any employee shows disrespect, he gets a single warning. Should he keep repeating his attitude, he is out the back door. It is much easier to hire another employee than to find another customer. Yet on the other hand when I receive a compliment, I immediately tell the employee about it.

Many times I have told clerks who display rudeness or poor service to find another job. By doing so they will not hurt the owner's business, scare away customers and they will be happier doing what they like instead of suffering and making everybody's life miserable.

More restaurants and small shops shut down because of lack of customer service than any other reason. To these incompetent managers I heartily recommend that they read several books on customer service. One of the best is Dale Carnegie's classic book *How to Win Friends and Influence People.*

I have jotted some TIPS for the next rude and inconsiderate employee you meet. Copy these suggestions on small cards and hand them out to each rude employee you encounter.

TIPS (TO 'INSURE' POLITE SERVICE)

1. Act interested in me. I need your assistance.
2. SMILE! SMILE! SMILE! It will not cost you a cent but it will earn you my good feelings and my business.
3. Be a good listener. I want to explain my problem and I hope you can solve it.
4. I am here to spend money in your shop; help me to do so.
5. Make me feel important and do it sincerely. We all need that feeling.
6. Show respect for my opinion. Don't say bluntly: "You're wrong." Do it nicely.
7. Begin in a friendly way. It opens up a dialogue.
8. If you are wrong admit it quickly and emphatically.
9. Try honestly to see things from my needs and ideas.
10. Remember that a person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language. Isn't yours? Please use my name when you address me.
11. If you are not enjoying this job, please find another one where you will be happier.
12. Practice the above and I will be loyal customer and will bring others with me to your shop.

SIX REASONS WHY CUSTOMERS DON'T COME BACK

1 percent die. 2) 3 percent move away. 3) 5 percent have new interests or new friends. 4) 9 percent change for competitive reasons. 5) 14 percent become dissatisfied. But…6) *68 percent never come back because of rude or bad service!*

Courteous-friendly service is what we deserve! Give it to us!

WHO is a CUSTOMER?

"A customer is the most important visitor on our premises. He is not dependent on us—we are dependent on him. He is not an outsider in our business—he is a part of it. We are not doing him a favor by serving him—he is doing us a favor by giving us the opportunity to do so. If we don't take our customers, somebody else will. —Henry Ford

Let's smile and be courteous wherever we work—in the private or public sector. Study these TIPS (To 'Insure' Polite Service) and

See CAN'T WE on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Contributions from non-U.S. citizens in elections illegal

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

As a result of my long term residence on the islands; various published articles, books and reports, I have been fortunate to count among my friends and acquaintances a variety of nationalities and ethnicities of which very many are not U.S. citizens and for the most part unfamiliar with many U.S. laws. I dare say that many local NMI candidates running for the office of delegate to Congress may not been fully aware of their campaign obligations under the law.

Candidates for delegate to Congress might wish to become familiar with the most recent federal election campaign laws as published only two months ago in April.

Specifically, Title 2 of the United States Code, Section 441(e), clearly states with respect to contributions and donations by foreign nationals: "It shall be unlawful for a foreign national, directly or indirectly to make a contribution or donation of money or other thing of value or to make an express or implied promise to make a contribution or donation in connection with a federal, state or local election."

The law further states: "It is illegal for a foreign national to make a contribution or donation to a committee of a political party. The term 'foreign national' defined by the law to mean a foreign principal, a person who is not a citizen of the United States or a national of the United States."

Section 441(f) states: "No person shall make a contribution in the name of another person or knowingly permit his name to be used to effect such a contribution and no person shall knowingly accept a contribution by one person in the name of another person."

Further, "No person shall make contributions of currency of the United States or currency of any foreign country to or for the benefit of any candidate which, in the aggregate, exceeds $100, with respect to any campaign of such candidate for nomination for election, or for election, to federal office."

Any person who knowingly and willfully commits any criminal action in violation of any provision of the federal election law can be subjected to a fine or imprisonment or both. Only U.S. citizens can legally contribute to a candidate's campaign, and even then the amount is limited by law and detailed records must be maintained (Section 432). For those who are interested the entire law can be examined when "Googled."

I have a lot of friends in the islands who are not U.S. citizens but nevertheless are interested in local and federal elections. I wouldn't want any of my friends, in their enthusiasm and desire to assist, to unknowingly get into trouble by contributing to a particular candidate's election campaign. Your mother may love you and overlook your mistakes—but the U.S. government will not.

My father worked for the federal government and I remember him telling me that that if a person took one dollar from the federal government illegally, the government would spend thousands to catch and punish the individual in order to make an example of his illegal act. As my dear sweet granny so often said: "Billy, ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking the law and it's also expensive."

In the words on the late Illinois senator, Everett Dirksen, "During a political campaign, everyone is concerned with what a candidate will do on this or that question if he is elected, except the candidate; he's too busy wondering what he'll do if he isn't elected."

Editor's Note: Over a span of many years in an effort to provide accurate and helpful information to potential foreign and U.S. investors, the author organized NMI investment promotion missions to Korea, Japan and Hong Hong and published many project profiles of potential NMI investment opportunities including the book, Business Reference & Investment Guide to the CNMI. Many of his articles, reports and maps have been translated into Japanese, Korean and Chinese languages.

A Sunday in Oahu

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The Hawaiians call it the gathering place, O'ahu. It is a place of festivals and celebrations—the hula and the lei, and definitely, the Aloha! It remains a gathering place of a diverse population short of a million people. They are no longer just the descendants, however, of the brave navigators who sailed eastward from the Marquesas to the islands they would call Hawai'i. Into the culture and bloodstream of the Polynesians have been added the DNA of the rest of Asia Pacifica.

Five times the number of residents are the annual visitors, primarily from North American and Japan, who come to try the poi, get lei'd and Maui'd on the islands. North American and Asia-Pacific demographics populate the pews before the numerous Christian sanctuaries that dot the landscape. A south Pacific Island group even managed to put some trailers together under the elevated Interstate highway and made sacred space of one normally hosting graffiti and unofficial murals.

The public schools also allow its buildings to be leased for religious services. Churches have become the institution of choice to transmit cultural practices from one generation to another. There is a sense that MLK Jr.'s observation is accurate: the 10th hour on Sunday is the most segregated time in the country. The ethnic congregations gel and unite by virtue of their racial uniformity. This is often a community asset, though it can get ugly when the strong ethnic identity but weak confidence turns into an "attitude" that denigrates the character of other groups.

That danger of ingrown ethnic superiority is abated by an understanding of life that has also gotten lopsided. The Cathedral by the Sea in Waikiki is an old gathering place of the old New Englanders and their European cousins, then the native Hawaiians, and now, the Filipinos. Named after Augustine of Hippo of the *City of God, City of Man* fame, a serious thinker but a deeply guilt-ridden theologian who popularized the notion that "all persons are born losers, flawed and depraved, and therefore, need to be saved," the Cathedral by the Sea vies for the efficacy of the means of salvation. This becomes problematic when each religious group claims to have the only means to attain this path of salvation!

For more than 1,500 years, Western civilization had journeyed with this powerful notion, a psychological insight expressed by Paul of Tarsus who confessed that he did what he knew he should not do, and not do what he knew he needed to do. Never mind that alongside this insight is the notion that with original sin also comes original blessings. Promoted in our time by Dominican priest Matthew Fox who would incur the wrath of Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, culminating in his excommunication from the communion, a parallel movement in the resurgence of spirituality rather than its perpetual despair would emerge. But alas, they constitute an insignificant minority.

This Sunday morning in June, in Oahu, the followers of original sin are in full control of the gathered congregations that evolved from Constantine's triumphant vision of the salvific cross. They feed into the current ethos of fear and suspicion generated by the post-9/11 trauma, and the current preeminence of the Department of Homeland Security.

My 87-year old mother, a normally genial and trusting woman, has nothing but tales of suspicion and fear in her repertoire of stories about people who now in her mind mean harm to her person and property. The neighbor who comes to her door because her telephone was ringing incessantly while Mom was in the shower is suspected of plotting to divest my Mom of assets. Mom will not consider the possibility that the neighbor may just be concerned about her welfare if the neighbor thought that my *man'amko* Mom failed to answer her phone because she needed assistance.

There is the widely expressed admonition given to children on Halloween night "not to trust strangers," now expressed in the propensity of law enforcement personnel to presume guilt until proven innocent on those who fit the profile of suspicion-laden strangers, particularly those whose heritage leads to a prophet that once dominated the Levant and the Fertile Crescent.

Frank Schaeffer, who traveled with the likes of Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Dr. Dobson and the other "founding fathers" of the religious right, recently characterized George W. Bush's administration as one that has fostered a "paranoid distrust of the 'other.'" He warns his former colleagues in the GOP that the tactics of innuendoes about the Obamas' loyalty and patriotism will define the GOP of the future and render the same worthless to be a loyal opposition to the impending ascendancy of Obama to the White House.

This distrust of the other pretty much describes the impression I had upon walking into the Honolulu International Airport. I recently parodied the Aquino International Airport in Manila as having more personnel than passengers at its airport. A revision is in order; it is second to the Honolulu airport. The Homeland Security personnel in Alohaland seem to have multiplied since I was here in July last year.

The predominance of a culture of fear and suspicion is clear. Three friends, all currently employed by separate law enforcement agencies—local, state and national, all concur that there is a heightened sense of paranoia in the pursuit of the elusive certitude of security, leading to the observation that there are at least four oversight personnel for every single law enforcement officer providing public safety service. They have all become careful about their telephone conversations!

Sunday in O'ahu did not feel like a day of celebration. Rather, it was a day of solemn contemplation over the direction of an island paradise, and that of a nation in the serious grip of an artificially induced sense of insecurity foisted by a White House whose agenda of religious Armageddon before the Apocalypse, once dismissed as frivolity from a religious fringe, is now becoming more apparent to have been a guiding policy.

Yet personally, this Sunday was a day of celebration for me. Rotund in shape on Saipan, I look fit and slim among the Hawaiian brethren and sistern in Honolulu. And of that, even the Amen corner concurs! Alo-o-o-oha!

CAN'T WE

From Page 10

practice them. Remember we are all customers and servers. Wouldn't you appreciate being treated in a polite and prompt manner?

I just have to get these feelings off my chest. But it's time clerks learn to treat clients with respect. However let's enjoy a few light moments before we plunge back into our daily activities.

These should make you smile:

1. The parts of speech are lungs and air.

2. The inhabitants of Moscow are called Mosquitoes.

3. The four seasons are salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

4. The spinal column is a long bunch of bones. The head sits on the top and you sit on the bottom.

5. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 opossums.

6. The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.

7. You can't kill yourself by holding your breath.

8. Banging your head on the wall uses 150 calories an hour.

9. Americans on the average eat 18 acres of pizza daily.

10. A census taker is a man who goes from house to house increasing the population.

Despite all the problems and uncertainties in our daily life, let's recall the delightful song from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*: "Whistle while you work." It will make your troubles go away. Smile and let's be courteous to one and other.

Letter to the Editor

Support the marine monument!

I am 28 years old and I was born on Saipan. Currently I live with my husband, a private serving in the U.S. Army, and our two children in Avondale, Arizona. We plan on returning to Saipan when his service to our country is complete.

I've been following the story of the Mariana Trench Monument in the newspapers and on the blogs. Has there ever been a better opportunity presented to the people of the CNMI?

Why is the governor saying that the monument "will strip fishing rights and other powers" away from the Commonwealth's inhabitants?

The governor is one of the few wealthy locals that can afford to send his kids to the states for school or work. The rest of us are going to have to scrape out a living on Saipan. What are we going to do? What economic opportunities are our leaders creating?

The Monument would create jobs and it would bring research dollars to the college. Jobs and education. How can any politician reasonably be against this proposal?

If somebody has another plan for that part of our island chain, I'd love to see it. Undersea mining is a pipe dream, the commercial fishing venture on Rota is already in default and will probably be out of business before the last garment factory closes, there can be no development on the three small uninhabited islands because they are protected by our Constitution, and hardly anybody goes up that far except for illegal foreign fishing vessels.

Support the marine monument.

Elizabeth Deleon Guerrero
Avondale, Arizona

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°

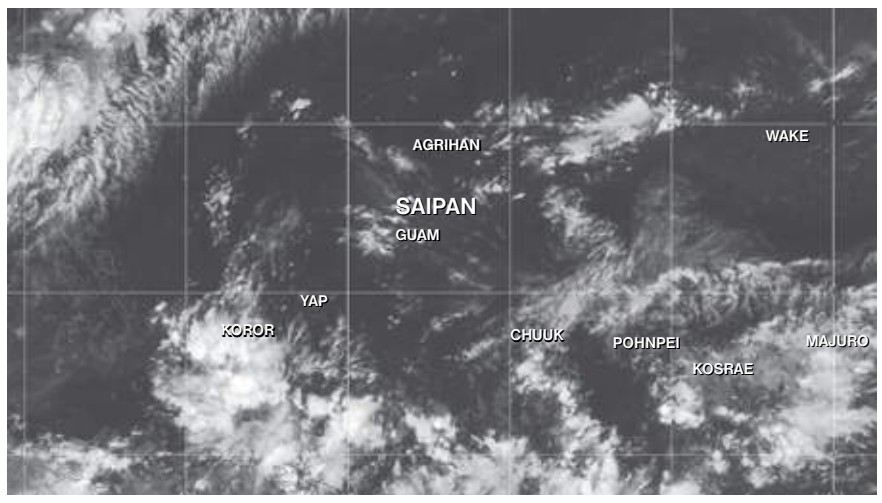
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲88	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲90	▼81
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼58
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼64
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼74
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼56
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼74
New York	Cloudy	▲83	▼64
Osaka	Rain	▲77	▼64
Paris	Rain	▲64	▼55
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼66
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼59
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼47
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲86	▼61
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼62
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲87	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:30PM, SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from 7N130E through a weak circulation centered just west of Koror near 7N132E then turns southeastward through another weak circulation centered southeast of Koror near 3N139E to end at EQ147E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of the trough axis just south of Koror or south of a line from 8N130E to 6N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis well south of Yap near the equator or south of a line from 4N138E to 4N141E to 1N151E. Trade-wind convergence east of the monsoon trough is producing scattered showers south of Chuuk within 70 miles of a line from 6N151E to EQ156E. A surface trough runs southward from 8N157E to a weak circulation centered southwest of Kosrae near 3N160E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are forming within 50 miles of the center. A developing trough stretches northeastward from EQ167E to 9N177E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are erupting near the equator and northward over the southern Marshall Islands including Majuro within 120 miles of a line from EQ168E to 6N170E to 9N173E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers northeast of the Marianas within 100 miles of a line from 18N152E to 21N161E and also west of Wake Island near the dateline between 20N and 24N from 174E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:50AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:34AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:56PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:48PM	3:26AM
Tuesday	5:40PM	4:10AM
Wednesday	6:32PM	4:59AM
Thursday	7:23PM	5:50AM
Friday	7:23PM	5:50AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Worst may be behind for Wall Street—or not

By EILEEN AJ CONNELLY
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Not long ago, it seemed like the worst was over. As the first quarter wound down, the credit crisis appeared to be easing, the housing market seemed like it might get some footing and Wall Street was growing confident that it had finally found a bottom after months of volatility.

No one expected oil would shoot up 30 percent in just three months.

With new record crude prices almost daily and more negative news for the financial sector combining to generate a new round of volatility, Wall Street is left in disagreement over whether there will be any kind of market recovery soon.

"Frankly, my concern is that some folks may be wanting it too badly," said Gregory Miller, chief economist at SunTrust Banks. "There is a bottom out there, we are going to get through this, but I'm in the camp that thinks this is very long process."

Although the major indexes have gone through some wild swings in recent weeks, they have hovered above the low points seen in mid-March. Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist for Standard & Poor's Equity Research, thinks the market will stay there for a while. "Until we get more positive catalysts, we will likely meander within the mid-March through mid-May range," he said, referring to a swing of between 8 percent and 9 percent for the Dow Jones industrial average during those months.

"Because sentiment was so bad at the March bottom, that was one of the reasons our technician thought that the worst was likely over," Stovall said. "It did improve from then."

But while the sentiment on Wall Street gained some momentum, consumer sentiment went in the opposite direction as gas prices climbed.

"Consumer confidence ... has gotten dramatically worse," Stovall said. And with gas prices remaining at record levels, he doesn't expect that measure to improve any time soon.

But Stovall notes that investors tend to be more flexible that pinched consumers. "The confidence of Wall Street, I believe, fluctuates more rapidly than the confidence of Main Street," he said. "You can't really compare one to another."

Barring some new shock, Stovall thinks the market has likely touched, or at least come close, to its bottom. "If we haven't gone any lower as a result of all these worries," he said, "it would have to be some new worries that have yet to be anticipated."

Wall Street is about to get a host of new information that will help it decide what direction to head in. Investment banks start reporting second-quarter results Monday. May producer price and industrial production data, along with new housing figures will come in starting Tuesday, and the Federal Reserve's next decision on interest rates comes the following week.

If that combines to even a modest positive, Stovall said, investors might start to take some chances that could boost the market.

"Investors, in my opinion, are like hyperactive first graders playing musical chairs," he said. "They're always trying to out-anticipate everybody else."

That means they won't wait until they're 100 percent sure that the economy is on solid footing again before jumping back into the market, he said, for fear they would miss out on opportunities.

Adolfo Laurenti, senior economist at Mesirow Financial, is among those who think second-quarter results will help. "The current quarter will begin to come in and it won't look too bad," he said. While the oil spike has somewhat derailed the intended impact of the government stimulus checks, Laurenti said, he thinks positive earnings will help boost investor confidence.

"That should create some sentiment on the upside, especially for the blue chips," he said.

Laurenti thinks the third quarter might look a little weak because of the fading impact of the stimulus checks, and politics may produce some added uncertainty in the fall and going into the new year as a new president takes office.

And it will take some time for the financial industry to right itself. Miller said if large financial firms find they need to raise more capital, that could be a new shock.

But in the end, it all comes back to oil.

"I think the balance between supply and demand is real, and if the supplies are not keeping up with demand, that's basic Economics 101, prices go up," Laurenti said. "And that's exactly what we're seeing."

Miller, however, said people are already changing their behavior because of high prices, which will likely loosen demand and help reduce oil prices.

"Once this domestic economy changes its spending patterns and it appears to be permanent, then fundamentals for petroleum based fuels don't support oil at $125 a barrel," Miller said. "Will they come back down to $30 a barrel for oil? I doubt it. But is there something magic about $125? No. Could we easily come down below $100? We could."

Inflation jumps by biggest amount

AP

Consumers buy vegetables at a retail shopping mall Saturday, June 14, 2008.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Soaring energy costs pushed inflation up in May at the fastest pace in six months. Food costs kept rising, too, and all signs are pointing to more bad news on gasoline, oil and food in the months ahead.

Costs for clothing and prescription drugs did drop last month, but consumer prices rose by 0.6 percent in all, the biggest one-month increase since November, the Labor Department reported Friday.

Food prices, which had taken the biggest one-month leap in 18 years in April, rose by a more moderate 0.3 percent in May, but that still left food costs rising at a 6.3 percent rate so far year, well above last year's increase. People are paying 10.2 percent more for milk than a year ago.

Consumers are getting hammered by a relentless surge in energy costs, pushing gasoline above $4 per gallon. The rising food prices partly reflect higher costs for transporting products to grocery stores.

Core inflation, which excludes energy and food, edged up 0.2 percent in May, an increase that was in line with expectations and helped to ease worries in financial markets that the Federal Reserve was inching closer to starting to raise interest rates to combat inflation pressures.

Clothing costs fell by 0.3 percent and the cost of prescription drugs dropped by 0.7 percent, but airline tickets jumped 3.2 percent, the biggest gain in more than six years, again reflecting the surge in fuel costs.

On Wall Street, stocks ended a turbulent week with a big gain, reflecting investor relief that at least the core inflation reading remained well-behaved. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 165.77 points to close at 12,307.35 on Friday.

Private economists cautioned that there would probably be more bad news on inflation in the months ahead given that this year's oil shock has gone on much longer than expected.

"Businesses that had been patiently waiting for oil prices to fall have run out of patience. We expect more of them to start throwing in the towel and raising prices," said Kenneth Beauchemin, an economist at Global Insight, noting the announcement by Dow Chemical Co. late last month that it was raising prices by up to 20 percent.

Oil closes below $135, G-8 execs raise alarm

NEW YORK (AP)— Oil prices pulled back Friday after OPEC questioned whether crude can remain so high and the dollar gained against the euro.

Meanwhile, U.S. filling station operators pushed average gas prices deeper into record territory. Prices at the pump are up nearly 7 cents since crossing the $4 threshold nationwide last weekend.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, benchmark light, sweet crude for July delivery fell $1.88 to settle at $134.86.

■ ■ ■ ■

OSAKA, Japan (AP)—Finance ministers from the Group of Eight industrialized nations urged oil producers Saturday to boost output to help stabilize record-high oil and food prices, calling the situation a serious threat to global economic growth.

The world economy now faces "headwinds" because of the recent rise in prices, the G-8 ministers said in a joint statement at the conclusion of two days of talks in Osaka in western Japan.

"Elevated commodity prices, especially of oil and food, pose a serious challenge to stable growth worldwide, have serious implications for the most vulnerable and may increase global inflationary pressure," the statement said.

The fundamental factor driving oil prices is the imbalance between rising global demand and supply constraints, the ministers said. They added that geopolitical and financial factors also play a role - a reflection of some ministers' view that speculative trading in oil markets is pushing up prices.

■ ■ ■ ■

Friday's close puts the price of oil more than $4 below the all-time trading high it struck last Friday, but still more than 10 percent higher than it was before its latest surge, which began just over a week ago. The price for a barrel has swung back and forth in a band about $10 wide since then.

In its monthly market report, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said oil's recent volatility "reconfirms the view that current price levels do not reflect supply and demand realities." The cartel also lowered its 2008 global demand forecast, saying it now expects demand to increase by 1.28 percent to an average of 86.9 million barrels per day, down from a previous forecast of 1.35 percent.

"A review of prospects for the remainder of the year also shows little support for prices to remain at current levels," OPEC said.

That downward revision follows similar moves by the U.S. Energy Department and the International Energy Agency earlier in the week.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Saudi oil chief to address reports of oil increase

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Saudi Arabia's oil minister on Sunday will address reports that the world's largest oil-producing country is set to raise production by about 500,000 barrels per day, his adviser said. The increase would bring Saudi Arabia's oil production to 10 million barrels a day, the country's highest ever, according to reports by The New York Times and the Middle East Economic Survey, an industry publication. Saudi Arabia has called for a meeting of oil producing and consuming countries on June 22 in the port city of Jiddah to discuss ways of dealing with soaring energy prices.

Nike lets sponsored swimming change brands

BEAVERTON, Ore. (AP)—Nike is allowing seven of the Olympic hopefuls it sponsors to don Speedo International's new full-body swimsuit instead of the Nike product for the U.S. Olympic Trials in Omaha later this month. Nike spokesman Derek Kent said the exception is a limited one to allow top swimmers to experiment with other products, satisfy their curiosity and compete without distractions. Since the February launch of Speedo's sleek LZR Racer, swimmers wearing the suit have broken 38 world records.

Google grows stronger in Microsoft-Yahoo fallout

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft Corp.'s abandoned takeover bid for Yahoo Inc. appears to have culminated with a disheartening thud for those two companies but amounted to yet another coup for online search leader Google Inc. What began in January as Microsoft's most audacious attack yet on Google instead paved the way for the Internet's most powerful company to gain even more clout through a deal that gives Google access to a large chunk of Yahoo's advertising space. By submitting to a partnership that endorses Google's search advertising technology as a better choice than its own, Yahoo is giving online marketers even more incentive to spend most of their money with its biggest rival, according to industry analysts.

Wall Street ends turbulent week with sharp gains

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street ended a turbulent week with a sharp gain Friday after government readings on inflation and a drop in oil prices eased worries about the effect of rising prices on consumers. The advance lifted the Dow Jones industrial average more than 165 points, and the three major indexes turned in a mixed performance for the week. Friday's session saw the Dow rise 165.77, or 1.37 percent, to 12,307.35. Broader stock indicators also rose Friday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index advanced 20.16, or 1.50 percent, to 1,360.03, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 50.15, or 2.09 percent, to 2,454.50.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Shuttle Discovery crew back on ground

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) -- Space shuttle Discovery and its crew of seven returned to Earth on Saturday and capped a successful expansion job at the international space station, more spacious and robust thanks to a new billion-dollar science lab. The shuttle descended through a few puffy clouds and landed at 11:15 a.m., under the control of commander Mark Kelly. Two hours later, all the astronauts - including Garrett Reisman, looking remarkably fresh and fit after 95 days in space - walked out, shook hands with NASA's senior managers and admired the ship that safely brought them home.

Oklahoma auditor guilty of conspiracy, taking bribes

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP) -- A jury convicted Oklahoma Auditor and Inspector Jeff McMahan and his wife Saturday on felony counts of conspiracy and accepting bribes. Federal jurors deliberated about 13 hours over the course of two days before finding the two-term Democrat and his wife, Lori, guilty on one count each of conspiracy and two counts each of accepting bribes. Jurors acquitted both of them on five counts of mail fraud. The charges related to their dealings with southeast Oklahoma businessman Steve Phipps, who testified for the prosecution. Phipps also has been implicated in a case involving three former state legislators who allegedly steered state funds toward his business interests.

Wash. search suspended for 2 missing boaters

LACEY, Wash. (AP) -- The search was suspended Saturday for a boy and a man now presumed dead after the small boat they were in overturned in the swift-moving Nisqually River. Cameron McCartney, 9, and Bryan L. Pierce have been missing since Thursday, when the boat overturned just upstream from the Interstate 5 bridge east of Lacey in western Washington. The body of Cameron's 5-year-old brother, Sean, was recovered Thursday evening. The boat's driver, Vincent Farler, 42, of Olympia, was ordered held Friday for investigation of three counts of homicide by watercraft and operation of a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol. Bail was set at $75,000.

$13.5M settlement in girl's E. coli-related death

MILWAUKEE (AP) -- Eight years after a 3-year-old girl died from exposure to tainted meat at a Sizzler restaurant, her family reached a $13.5 million settlement with the company's meat supplier and others, according to court records. Brianna Kriefall and her family had eaten at a Sizzler in South Milwaukee in July 2000. While Brianna didn't eat meat during the meal, lawyers argued that the watermelon she ate had touched tainted meat. She died a week later after battling E. coli-related hemolytic uremic syndrome, which causes kidney failure and low blood-cell counts. Another 140 people fell sick in the outbreak at two Sizzler restaurants.

Cedar Rapids flood recedes; levee fails

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP)— The dark, filthy water that flooded Iowa's second-largest city finally started to recede Saturday after forcing 24,000 people to flee, but those who remained were urged to cut back on showering and flushing to save the last of their unspoiled drinking water.

A sandbagging siege saved the last of the city's four collection wells from contamination by the record flood. But officials warned that if people didn't cut back the water will run out within three to four days.

"Water is still our primary concern," said Pat Ball, the city's utilities director. "We're still using water at a greater rate than we're producing."

An estimated 9.2 square miles, or 1,300 blocks, were flooded in Cedar Rapids, fire department spokesman Dave Koch said. Early estimates put property damage at $736 million, Koch said.

While the Cedar River ebbed in hard-hit Cedar Rapids, a levee breach in the state capital of Des Moines flooded a neighborhood of more than 200 homes, a high school and about three dozen businesses.

In Iowa City, more than 200 homes were evacuated because of the flooded Iowa River, expected to crest Monday or Tuesday. People filled thousands of sandbags at the University of Iowa but officials were conceding some buildings to the expected flooding.

AP

Russ Shelton carries his seven-year-old, 30-pound cat, Sam, across Ninth St. NW after rescuing the cat from his flooded home Saturday, June 14, 2008, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"We've pretty much just abandoned any effort to try and protect the Arts Campus because we are just overwhelmed by the amount of water," university spokesman Steve Parrott said. "It's just too unsafe." Valuable paintings have been removed from the art museum, he added.

At least three deaths in Iowa have been attributed to the storms and subsequent flooding, and 12 more have died in two recent tornadoes. The storms have prompted the governor to issue disaster proclamations for 83 of the state's 99 counties.

President Bush was briefed on the flooding in Iowa and other parts of the Midwest while he was in Paris, and was assured that federal agencies are making plans to help people affected by the high water, White House press secretary Dana Perino said.

"He expressed his concern for people who may still be in danger and for those who are hurting from the impact of the storms," Perino said.

Elsewhere, Illinois emergency authorities said a levee along the Mississippi River in far western Illinois burst Saturday morning and voluntary evacuations were under way in Keithsburg, a town of about 700 residents.

"The levee broke in two places," said Keithsburg Alderman George Askew, 76. "We're getting under water."

House GOP falls short on campaign cash

WASHINGTON (AP) -- House rank and file Republicans are tens of millions of dollars short of meeting fundraising targets set by their own campaign committee in advance of this fall's elections, according to figures circulating among the leadership, heightening concerns inside the party about major losses in November.

Most recent figures show that GOP lawmakers have brought $27 million into the coffers of the National Republican Congressional Committee in the past 17 months, far short of the target of about $58 million. Compounding the challenge, they will soon be asked to raise another $20 million or more to help candidates in selected battleground districts.

Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, chairman of the NRCC, provided the information recently to the leadership and to members of a newly formed committee charged with reinvigorating the campaign effort in the wake of the loss of three seats to Democrats in special elections.The AP obtained a copy of some of the documents involved in the presentations.

The disclosure comes in addition to other unsettling news for Republicans, who trail Democrats badly in cash on hand and are grappling with the alleged theft of more than $700,000 by a former employee.

The NRCC declined comment. Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, the party's leader in the House, is encouraging his colleagues to do more to help, a spokesman said.

"Mr. Boehner's focus right now is doing everything possible to help House Republicans be successful this fall, and that includes pushing all our members to do more to help our team," said his spokesman, Kevin Smith.

Republicans controlled the House for 12 years until they lost the majority in 2006. In the months since, their political position has eroded significantly, judging from polls, campaign fundraising and other factors.

The result has been a private acknowledgment among lawmakers and aides alike that the GOP is highly unlikely to regain the majority in 2008 and will be fortunate to hold its losses to a minimum.

Both parties have political committees that typically raise more than $100 million for the fall campaign. While much of the money comes from donors who receive mail or online solicitations or attend fundraising events, individual lawmakers also are expected to help.

The information Cole distributed included the total each Republican has been asked by the NRCC to raise, an amount that is highest for members of the leadership and lowest for first-term lawmakers facing competitive races in the fall. Republicans who hold the senior positions on each committee - the men and women who would take over in a Republican-controlled House - are given higher assessments than more junior colleagues.

The material also shows how much money individual lawmakers have brought in, either through fundraising calls to donors or from transfers from their own campaign treasury.

Cole has donated or transferred $1.4 million so far, more than anyone else. Boehner, at $1.26 million, is the only other Republican to top six figures. Both men had two-year assessments of nearly $1.13 million, according to NRCC figures.

Mild weather aids Calif. firefighting

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)- Milder-than-expected weather on Saturday gave fire crews hope that they could rein in a series of Northern California wildfires that have destroyed dozens of homes and forced thousands of residents to evacuate.

Thousands of people stayed away from their homes in the Butte County town of Paradise, but some were allowed to return Saturday to assess damage. At least 74 homes were destroyed and another 20 were damaged in the Paradise area, about 90 miles north of Sacramento.

The priority for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shifted to assessing damage from the blaze that scorched about 36 square miles, said Cal Fire spokesman Joshpae White. The blaze was 45 percent contained after a blustery couple of days, and White said crews expected to have it controlled by Monday.

"With the cooler temperatures and the lack of winds we were able to make the fire burn on our terms," White said Saturday. "It's mellowed out considerably."

Five firefighters suffered minor injuries battling the blaze.

About 9,000 residents had fled the area at the fire's peak Friday. Officials did not know how many had returned home Saturday.

More than a quarter of Paradise residents are over 65. Many had to be moved in buses because they don't drive, while those who were bedridden or in wheelchairs were moved in vans or ambulances.

"We have a significant number of elderly people in wheelchairs at the shelters," Pamela Hospers, Butte County public authority manager, told The Sacramento Bee. "It's very confusing, very frustrating when you have to change and leave everything you know."

One elderly woman died after suffering a heart attack while being evacuated.

Tattoo artist sets record with number of tattoos

DALLAS (AP) -- Oliver Peck may be seeing the number 13 in his dreams.

From midnight Thursday to midnight Friday, Peck completed 415 tattoos, applying the unlucky number 13 to scores of arms, legs, ankles, backs, thighs and even some rear ends.

Peck claimed a mention in the Guinness Book of Records for drawing the most tattoos in a 24-hour period. He was awarded the honor by Guinness adjudicator Danny Girton Jr., according to a report on The Dallas Morning News Web site Saturday.

The former record holder is Katherine Von Drachenberg, also known as Kat Von D, star of the reality TV show "LA Ink" on TLC.

For several years on Friday the 13th, Elm Street Tattoo in the Deep Ellum entertainment district in Dallas has launched a 24-hour tattoo marathon.

"It's an adrenaline rush," said Peck, the 36-year-old co-owner of the shop.

Some of Peck's customers included firefighters, police officers, bartenders, a vehicle inspector, a nurse and a surgeon. By the time the marathon began, a line of customers snaked out the door and onto Elm Street.

Sarah Hooper, 24, so obsessed with the number 13 that she tries to stop the gas pump at $13.13, got her seventh number 13 tattoo, this time on her upper left thigh.

"It's something to do on the 13th," she said.

Todd Smith got his first tattoo, even though his wife and children were unaware of his plans.

"Since I'm 34, and I have three kids, it's my mid-life crisis," he said.

Asia

Crews search for missing in Japan quake

Rescue workers take a break near the site of a landslide triggered by Saturday's earthquake in Kurihara, Miyagi Prefecture (state), northern Japan, Sunday, June 15, 2008.

AP

KURIHARA, Japan (AP)—Rescue teams using shovels and buckets tried Sunday to dig their way to seven people believed trapped in a landslide at a hot springs resort after a deadly earthquake pounded the mountains of northern Japan, killing at least six and injuring more than 200.

The fire department squads worked as military helicopters buzzed overhead and frequent aftershocks posed the threat of the ground collapsing under their feet.

Saturday's 7.2-magnitude quake triggered several major landslides, blocking roads and stranding bathers at the Komanoyu hot spring resort, which is located in a heavily forested mountainous area outside the small city of Kurihara. Crews searching for the missing had to hike mountain trails and dig their way to the worst-hit areas.

"It was the worst quake I have ever felt," said Rinji Sato, whose grocery store in this town near the epicenter was a mess of shattered bottles and food thrown from shelves. "We were just lucky this didn't hit a big city."

Search teams have already recovered the bodies of six dead, but believe at least nine more may be missing. News reports put the number of injured at about 260.

Emperor Akihito, in an address at a tree-planting ceremony in nearby Akita prefecture, expressed sympathy Sunday for those affected by the quake.

"I hope the missing people are rescued promptly," he said. "I hope peace will return to people's lives as soon as possible."

Sato described the temblor as a sharp vertical jolt followed by a powerful sideways swaying. "It was impossible to stay on your feet," he said.

Tohoku University geologist Motoki Kazama said the area was especially vulnerable to landslides because it is of volcanic origin, and contains a large amount of loose ash. Some of the landslides continued off of the sides of the hills for several hundred feet, he said.

"With a quake of this magnitude, it isn't surprising that there was this amount of land movement," he said.

The government responded quickly, mobilizing troops, police and fire department rescue teams to find and care for the injured and to recover the dead.

"Our most important task is to save as many lives as possible, and we are doing the best we can," Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda said.

Access, however, was a major obstacle.

The quake - followed by more than 200 aftershocks - buckled roads, including one highway that was severed when a stretch of land collapsed, turning it into a sudden drop-off.

870 inmates escaped from Afghan prison

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. and NATO troops aided Afghan forces with reconnaissance in a hunt Saturday for 870 inmates who escaped prison after a sophisticated Taliban assault that even NATO conceded was a success for the militants.

A roadside bomb, meanwhile, killed four U.S. Marines sent to southwestern Afghanistan to help train the country's fledgling police. The deadliest attack on American forces this year came one day after the U.S. defense secretary highlighted the fact that more American and allied troops were killed in Afghanistan than in Iraq last month.

Afghanistan's deputy interior minister, Munid Mangal, said about 1,000 prisoners were housed in Kandahar's Sarposa Prison when dozens of militants on motorbikes attacked the facility late Friday. Seven police and several prisoners died in the assault, he said.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Filipina teen takes first steps

NEW YORK (AP)—A 15-year-old girl has taken her first steps after doctors at a Bronx hospital straightened her severely clubbed feet, which were twisted backward and upside down. The braces on Jingle Luis' legs were removed Friday, about six weeks after her surgery at Montefiore Medical Center. Wearing casts and medical boots, she carefully walked on her reoriented feet. The teen says she "can't believe it" and is excited, but also a little afraid because she doesn't know exactly what to do. Until the surgery, she used crutches to hobble on the tops of her feet. Her surgeon, Dr. Terry Amaral, says the next steps are building up Jingle's strength and stamina, and teaching her to walk. Jingle lives in the Philippines. She came to New York in April to have the surgery.

Soldiers kill 4 communist rebels in clashes

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Government troops overran a key guerrilla camp and killed four communist rebels in pre-dawn clashes Saturday in the northern and southern Philippines, a military spokesman said. Soldiers battled about 60 New People's Army guerrillas for about three hours before capturing a regional rebel headquarters outside Quezon township in southern Bukidnon province, said armed forces spokesman Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres. The rebels fled, leaving behind three dead comrades. Three soldiers were wounded in the clash, he said. In the second encounter, soldiers conducting a combat operation with local police clashed with guerrillas in Camarines Sur province. One female guerrilla was killed and troops seized two rifles from the fleeing rebels.

ExxonMobil could spend $100M for RP oil exploration

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—ExxonMobil, one of the world's largest oil and gas producers, said Friday it could spend more than US$100 million for offshore oil exploration in the Philippines. The government announced earlier that a consortium of mostly Philippine companies will begin commercial oil production next week of the Galoc offshore oil field in the South China Sea off the northern tip of Palawan province, southwest of Manila. Stephen Greenlee, vice president for Exxon Mobil Exploration Co., visited President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to inform her of his company's plans to search for oil in the Sulu Sea, in the southwestern Philippines.

US Navy hospital ship wins hearts in RP

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

A government soldier keeps a close watch as students waving national and American flags line the streets while awaiting the arrival of U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney for the closing ceremony of Pacific Partnership 2008, Saturday, June 14, 2008, in Calbayog City, on Samar island, in central Philippines.

AP

CALBAYOG, Philippines (AP)—A mayor waited five years in vain for Filipino politicians to make good on a promise to build a badly needed health clinic in this far-flung city. U.S. Navy Seabees helped local troops construct it—in 30 days.

The Seabees, the Navy's construction units, arrived weeks ahead of the hospital ship USNS Mercy, which visited impoverished Calbayog for the second time Saturday after treating thousands of people for free in 1987.

When the huge, white-hulled Mercy—a converted oil tanker—steamed back to Calbayog, on central Samar island, a boy who underwent surgery aboard the ship 21 years ago to correct a foot deformity waited on shore. Now a nurse, he wanted to give a little payback to the Americans.

"I offered to become a medical volunteer as a way of thanking them. I can walk now because of the Mercy, I can even play basketball," an excited Carl Nino Rosalado said.

The Mercy's gentle diplomacy has won hearts in the Philippines, where the U.S. military has been providing combat training and weapons to the underfunded military since 2002 to stop the poor Southeast Asian country from continuing to be a breeding ground for terrorists and extremist ideologies.

Al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants in the south have been weakened by U.S.-backed offensives but still plot bombings and kidnappings for ransom. They have been blamed for the June 8 kidnapping of a popular TV news anchor and her two-man crew on violent Jolo island.

Communist New People's Army guerrillas have been waging a 40-year bloody insurrection across the sprawling archipelago, including on Samar, about 375 miles (600 kilometers) southeast of Manila.

Both insurgent groups, blacklisted by Washington as terrorist organizations, have targeted Americans in the past.

Wrapping up a monthlong medical and civic mission in the Philippines—the first stop in a five-nation Asia-Pacific humanitarian tour—the Mercy's staff, Seabees, U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney and other American officials were given a rousing tribute Saturday by Calbayog, a laid-back coconut-growing and fishing city.

Hundreds of elementary and high school students—in their school uniforms on a day without classes—lined roads, yelling and waving small U.S. and Philippine flags as Kenney's convoy passed by. A local army brass band welcomed her at the airport and cultural dancers, including a group of villagers dressed as roosters, regaled the Americans in two farewell receptions.

Kenney got out of her van a number of times, shaking the hands of well-wishers and giving them high-fives. She later inaugurated a nine-room health center partly built by 20 Seabees, which Mayor Mel Sarmiento said will boost a local government campaign against tropical diseases, dengue and tuberculosis.

Calbayog has one public and three private hospitals, but its six government doctors are overwhelmed by the poor, who make up nearly half of the 164,000 residents, he said.

"If we have enough medical services, medicine for the sick and free consultations, maybe the rebels will come down from the mountains," said Lucena Mendoza, a mother of four who waited in line nine hours for treatment for blurred vision from a U.S. volunteer ophthalmologist. She left beaming with new reading glasses.

Reaching out to the rural poor entails risks for Mercy's medical workers.

In Calbayog, near mountains where communist guerrillas lurk, heavily armed soldiers and police kept watch over the Americans.

In an earlier stop in the south, one of the Mercy's four MH-60 Knighthawk support helicopters was hit by gunfire although it is not certain it was targeted or accidentally hit in a region where Muslim rebels and criminal gangs also are active.

Nobody was injured. The helicopter was grounded for safety checks and only one civic activity was canceled. The Mercy's mission went on.

During a 2006 visit, the Mercy anchored far from southern Jolo island, where Abu Sayyaf extremist militants are active, for security reasons. Police said at the time they had learned of a plan by the militants to bomb the ship, which was given 24-hour heavy security.

While many in predominantly Muslim Jolo still harbor bitter memories of bloody battles between their forefathers and American colonizers in the early 1900s, it was hard to find anyone in Calbayog who could recite similar fighting on Samar.

In 1901, Filipino insurgents attacked and killed several American occupation troops in Samar's Balangiga township, near Calbayog. The so-called "Balangiga massacre"—and the heavy-handed U.S. reprisal that followed—represented one of the lowest points in the history of the two nations, which would later become strong military allies.

After stopping in Manila for another medical mission Sunday, the Mercy will travel to Vietnam, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and Micronesia, according to U.S. Navy Capt. James Rice.

The Mercy, with its high-tech medical equipment, has been ready to help cyclone-devastated Myanmar, but the paranoid ruling junta refused to allow most foreign ships to bring in aid.

"We would have done it; we'll be very happy to," Rice said. "They didn't want us."

World

Female suicide bomber strikes in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A female suicide bomber targeted a crowd of soccer fans celebrating Iraq's win in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday, wounding at least 34 people near a cafe north of Baghdad, police said.

The young woman, who was covered in a traditional black Islamic robe, was dropped off by a car shortly before the attack as dozens of cheering young men poured out onto the streets after watching Iraq beat China 2-1 on television in the cafe in the town of Qara Tappah.

The woman told suspicious police that she was waiting for her husband but blew herself up after an officer spotted the detonator and began screaming at the crowd to disperse, according to the town's top administrator, Serwan Shukir.

Seven police and 27 civilians were among the wounded, Shukir said, but the officer's warning had averted a higher casualty toll by preventing the woman from reaching the bulk of the fans.

Police Capt. Najib Khourshid said she was about 20 yards away from the crowd when the blast occurred.

"About 100 people were in the cafe and we went out to celebrate the victory after the match. Minutes later, a big explosion took place near us," said Salman Hameed, who was wounded in his chest and right hand. "The female bomber has spoiled our joy and celebration."

Hameed, a Sunni Arab, said five of his Kurdish and Turkomen friends also were wounded in the attack.

Qara Tappah is a mainly Kurdish and Shiite Turkomen city, about 75 miles northeast of Baghdad in the volatile Diyala province. The attack followed warnings by U.S. officials that al-Qaida in Iraq is increasing efforts to recruit women as suicide attackers in a bid to subvert stepped up security measures, particularly in Diyala.

AP

Soccer fans take to the streets to celebrate Iraq's win in the the Asia 2010 World Cup qualifying match between Iraq and China in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, June 14, 2008. Iraq ousted China from World Cup qualifying with a 2-1 victory Saturday.

Woman freed after being locked up for 18 years

ROME (AP)—An Italian woman whose family kept her locked in a room for almost two decades after she was accused of becoming pregnant out of wedlock has been freed by police, authorities and media reports said.

Police said they found the 47-year-old woman Friday in a filthy room in the family's home near Naples.

The woman was being hospitalized Saturday in the psychiatric ward of a Naples hospital, the ANSA news agency reported.

Authorities arrested the woman's brother, a farmhand, and sister, who worked in a nursery school, and put her 80-year-old mother under house arrest. The three were being investigated on suspicion of mistreatment and kidnapping.

The Carabinieri paramilitary police said in a statement that the woman had been locked up in the room since 1990 because of an unwanted pregnancy and that she was kept in "indescribable" conditions.

Italian TV showed the room with a bed with soiled sheets and a dirty toilet and sink, as well as plastic bottles of water and tin bowls.

Police said the woman's son, now 17, was living with relatives in town and didn't know about his mother.

An anonymous tip led police to the house along a country road on the outskirts of the rural town of Santa Maria Capua Vetere, police said.

Bush, French president united vs Iran

PARIS (AP)—Iran rejected a six-nation offer of incentives to stop enriching uranium on Saturday, prompting President Bush and French President Nicolas Sarkozy to jointly warn Tehran anew against proceeding toward a nuclear bomb.

"Our allies understand that a nuclear-armed Iran is incredibly destabilizing, and they understand that it would be a major blow to world peace," Bush said at a news conference with Sarkozy at Elysee Palace.

Bush

Sarkozy

The quickly unfolding series of events began in Tehran, where European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana played the role of messenger for the offer from the United States, France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China.

Solana presented the plan—a refreshed version of a 2006 package that Iran ignored - to Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki and its top nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili. There were no plans for Solana to see Iran's hardline president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Even before Solana's meetings, however, Iran gave its pre-emptive judgment of the deal that holds out the promise of economic, technological, educational and political rewards: dead on arrival, assuming the offer is conditioned on Iran halting its uranium enrichment, which it is.

"If suspension is included in the package, it won't be considered at all," the official IRNA news agency quoted Iran's government spokesman, Gholam Hossein Elham, as saying Saturday. "The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is clear. Preconditions can't be raised for any halt or suspension."

Bush and Sarkozy were informed of this as as they went into morning meetings. Their session capped warm talks that began over an elegant palace dinner Friday night. When the U.S. and French leaders appeared together before reporters in a grand palace hall around lunchtime, they presented a single front—contrasting with the tension shown between Bush and Jacques Chirac, Sarkozy's predecessor.

"I'm disappointed that the leaders rejected this generous offer out of hand," Bush told reporters.

Said Sarkozy: "As far as military nuclear access is concerned, this is 'no' on the part of the international community."

Bush said the issue has been dominating his discussions this week with leaders as he travels through Europe. With his time in office ticking down and it widely presumed that Iran could have enough fissile material for a weapon within a few years, Bush has been hoping to inject new urgency into the extremely slow-moving diplomatic process.

Would-be voters support Ireland's veto of EU treaty

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)—Political leaders across Europe were shaking their heads in frustration this weekend at the Irish voters' veto of the latest European Union treaty. But many of their citizens weren't.

Ordinary Spaniards, Dutch, French and Britons, who wish they could get the same chance, might also say "no" to the cold, distant heart of Europe.

"Spaniards feel Spanish, the French feel French, and the Dutch feel Dutch. We will never all be in the same boat," said Eduardo Herranz, a 41-year-old salesman in Madrid, Spain.

Herranz said Europeans were right to feel alienated from bureaucrats in the EU base of Brussels, Belgium.

"You don't decide on anything, and you don't get to vote on anything they are talking about," he said of the average voter. "In day-to-day life, out on the street, the European Union is something very distant."

The emotional disconnect between EU commissioners and their 495 million citizens has never been more evident than in the rejection of the Treaty of Lisbon Thursday by voters in Ireland, long considered one of the most pro-European voices in the 27-nation bloc.

The complex, 260-page document sought to change EU powers and institutions to keep them in line with its rapid growth into Eastern Europe, but like all EU documents requires unanimity to be ratified.

WORLD BRIEFS

British army to allow uniforms at gay pride march

LONDON (AP)—Britain's military says soldiers and airmen will be allowed to wear their uniforms to this year's gay pride march in London. The military said Saturday it would permit British Army and Royal Air Force personnel to show off their military affiliation in the July 5 parade. The decision brings the forces in line with the Royal Navy, which already allows sailors to participate in uniform. Britain began allowing gay men and women to serve openly in the military in 2000. While military personnel have been able to participate in the pride march since then, soldiers and airmen have done so in civilian clothes. Gay rights groups welcomed the decision.

Opposition leader taken to court at judge's order

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Police brought the Zimbabwe opposition's No. 2 leader to court Saturday, the first time he has been seen in public since plainclothes officers hustled him off a plane as he returned home. Police have said that Tendai Biti, secretary general of the Movement for Democratic Change, will be charged with treason, which can carry the death penalty. They had refused to say where he was being held or allow his lawyers to see him since his arrest Thursday, and responded only grudgingly to a High Court judge's order to produce him. Biti's arrest has added to concerns about a presidential runoff in less than two weeks between Movement for Democratic Change leader Morgan Tsvangirai and longtime Zimbabwean ruler Robert Mugabe.

Israel curbs Palestinian building on disputed land

AQABEH, West Bank (AP)—The elders of this West Bank village hold their meetings under a carob tree, sitting on boulders arranged in a circle. It looks idyllic, but is born of necessity—the council doesn't have a meeting hall. Aqabeh, home to 299 people, has never received Israeli construction permits despite many requests, its mayor says. After losing a battle in Israel's Supreme Court in April, the village now lives with the threat of seeing 37 of its 47 structures demolished, according to a U.N. count. That includes 27 homes, a clinic, a mosque and a kindergarten that was co-financed by a U.S. charity, the Building Alliance. All were built illegally, Israel says.

Argentina raises 'Che' Guevara statue

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The Argentine city of Rosario has inaugurated a monument honoring native son Ernesto "Che" Guevara. Thousands of people paid homage to the bearded icon on Saturday as officials unveiled a 12-foot (4-meter) bronze likeness on the 80th anniversary of his birth. The late guerrilla's daughter Aleida Guevara attended the ceremony and accepted on his behalf a post-mortem honor from a local university. Cuban Ambassador Aramis Fuente wished "Che" a happy birthday. The statue was made from some 75,000 bronze keys donated by Argentines nationwide. Guevara was captured and executed in 1967 in Bolivia as he was trying to foment an uprising.

Health & Fitness

Making fewer calories count

By JEANNINE STEIN
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Most people who maintain a substantial weight loss work to keep their calories low—between 1,200 and 1,700 a day for women, and 1,800 to 2,200 for men (depending on metabolism and amounts of exercise). That's far fewer calories than the amount consumed by most people who have never lost a great deal of weight.

So what does a 1,600-calorie diet look like compared with what can be a typical day's worth of food? The differences are dramatic and point out how little things can add up—fatty salad dressing, butter, a handful of candy, sugary sodas. By not keeping an eye on extra fat and calories, total calories for one day can easily reach almost 3,000—all of which probably won't be burned off, resulting in added pounds. (Calorie figures were taken from CalorieKing.com, which offers an online food database of nutritional information for more than 50,000 American generic and brand-name foods.)

1,600 CALORIES

■ Breakfast
3/4 cup Cheerios (75) with 3/4 cup 2 percent reduced-fat milk (92) and 1 medium banana (105)

■ Midmorning snack:
1 small apple (55)
2 tablespoons of smooth peanut butter (188)

■ Lunch
1 1/2 cups mixed vegetable salad (33) with 5.8-ounce can of light tuna (191), half an avocado (117) and 6 tablespoons of reduced-fat Italian dressing (68), whole grain roll (100)

■ Afternoon snack:
1 cup air-popped popcorn (31)
1 small orange (45)

■ Dinner
4 ounces roasted chicken breast (190), 3 ounces fresh broccoli (30), 1 small plain baked potato (128), small mixed vegetable salad with 4 tablespoons nonfat ranch dressing (84), 3.7 ounces fat-free chocolate pudding (60)

■ TOTAL: 1,592

2,900 CALORIES

■ Breakfast
1 glazed doughnut (200), coffee with 2 tablespoons half-and-half (40)

■ Lunch
Chicken Caesar salad (with dressing) from Chili's Grill & Bar (1,010), 12-ounce. Coke (143)

■ Midafternoon snack
1 1/2-ounce Hershey bar (230)

■ Dinner
Two slices of original-crust 14-inch pepperoni pizza from Papa John's Pizza (620), mixed vegetable salad with 4 tablespoons Italian dressing (188), 1 cup of Ben & Jerry's Cherry Garcia ice cream (480)

■ Total: 2,911

Online resources for calorie counts of various foods:
■ CalorieKing: www.calorieking.com
■ TheCalorieCounter.com: www.thecaloriecounter.com
—HowManyCaloriesIn.com: www.howmanycaloriesin.com

FROM START TO FITNESS

Abdominal machines or 15-minute classes?

By ANDREA RENEE WYATT, M.S.S., C.S.C.S.
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Q. My gym has a number of abdominal machines that members can use. The gym also offers 15-minute abdominal classes taught by a personal trainer and performed on floor mats. Which type of abdominal exercises work best—machines or floor exercises?

A. Choosing the right type of method to exercise a muscle group can be overwhelming at times. Machines, stability balls, medicine balls and floor exercises all present options for strengthening abdominal muscles. Choosing the better option means selecting the method that will be best for YOU!

The abdominal region is usually referred to as the core, although the core actually involves back and chest muscles as well. These other muscles also are involved in abdominal exercises. Remembering this can help you determine which type of exercise will help you achieve your goals.

Abdominal machines are usually designed to truly isolate the abdominal region and use a forward-bending motion with added weight to engage the muscles of the abdomen. Your arms and/or shoulders are used to achieve this motion, while your legs are either stationary or move with the motion of your upper body. These types of machines are best for people who may need the structure and security of using a machine that can control and isolate these muscles without risking injury to the lower back.

Many abdominal classes instructed by a personal trainer are a great way to work your "core" under the watchful eye of a professional. Abdominal classes typically focus on strengthening the whole core region through a series of exercises. These exercises use your arms and legs and involve stability and medicine balls, tubing or other exercise toys. They're usually done on the floor, on a stability ball or standing. Most classes involve movement in different directions to promote stability throughout the core region. These classes can be useful for participants to teach them the proper form and technique necessary for safely completing abdominal exercises.

No matter which type of exercise you choose to strengthen your abdominals, remember to choose an option that will help improve the strength and function of your entire core region.

Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program. Andrea Renee Wyatt, M.S.S., C.S.C.S., is a personal trainer with an extensive background in strength and conditioning as well as therapeutic recreation. If you have a fitness or training question, write to Andrea in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

Resisting male sag

By VICKY HALLETT
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Q. I'm a male in my 70s who goes to the gym five days a week to row 30 to 40 minutes, ride the bike for 20 minutes, do 12 sit-ups at a 75 percent angle, and work the weight machines for 10 to 15 minutes. I also play 18 holes of golf three days a week (I used to play four times a week for several years prior to this), so I'm in good shape except for the fact that I've developed a set of boobs over the last few years. What exercises can I do to make them go away? I notice that a lot of PGA golfers seem to have the same problem.

A. I guess I don't watch enough golf, because I had no idea about these perturbing protuberances, but your on-green observations are spot on, according to Jason Meisch, the director of fitness and training at Clubgolf in Gaithersburg, Md.

The facility, which focuses on exercises and techniques to improve one's game, often deals with clients facing this same annoying jiggle. In most cases, it's a result of too much leaning over (either a golf ball or a desk). With the chest and shoulders curved into a C, any excess flab in your upper body becomes exaggerated. And it doesn't help that "as you age, the skin begins to stretch and sag," Meisch says.

But there are moves that can combat this look—and even improve your handicap. Meisch would start you with dumbbell rows, lat pull-downs and something to stretch out the chest and upper spine. His favorite? The squat and arch, which has you sit atop a Swiss ball with your arms raised over your head. Then you bend your knees and let the ball run up your spine, and then push your hips up so that your back is arched over the ball.

Or there's always plan B: Buy a bra.

■ ■ ■

Q. What do you think of classes that use relatively light weights and high repetitions? The one I attend plays different songs for each targeted area. Are these effective fitness regimens?

A. I suppose playing the same song for every targeted area could get boring pretty quickly, so I see nothing detrimental with the musical accompaniment for your class—unless it involves Celine Dion. But as for the efficacy of a light weight, high repetition regimen, it depends on what you're hoping to get out of it.

Ryan Putz, director of personal training at Vida Fitness, a D.C. gym, worries that people sign up for classes like the ones you describe thinking they're a suitable replacement for focused strength-training sessions. "But it's really more of a cardio workout. Using the weights will get your heart rate up faster and burn more calories," he says.

To increase muscle mass takes a heavier weight, although it doesn't have to come in the form of dumbbells. Putz prefers using your own body—push-ups, squats, lunges. So if your class is incorporating such moves as well, that's a clue you're snagging a strength benefit along the way, he concedes.

But Putz also cautions new exercisers to make sure they're getting proper guidance at classes like these. "High reps, if your form is wrong, puts you at a high risk for injury," he says. And, although I don't mind the tune switches, he makes a fair point about letting a DJ direct your workout: It's your muscles that tell you when you're done working a particular body part.

Not Celine Dion.

Life & Style

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

It was after breakfast at the hotel when we headed off to our first destination of the day—the Gyeongsanbuk-Do Provincial Fisheries Resources Development Institute.

The Gyeongsangbuk-do province supports fishery businesses in Korea by raising and releasing "massively high quality" species of fish. According to our tour guide, the Provincial Fisheries Resources Development Institute has also established artificial fishing reefs, multi-purpose port facilities as well as fishery infrastructure in order to respond actively to the Korea-Japan Fisheries Agreement and the Korea-China Fisheries Agreement.

The institute, which was established in October 1998, raises and releases over 3 million high quality fish each year.

After our visit to the fish farm, we paid a visit to one of Korea's rare ancient villages to take pictures and learn a little bit of some of the earlier Korean homes that were once occupied by Korean government officials.

RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

Delegation members of the 16th Annual CNMI Students Cultural Exchange Program, sponsored by the Junior Chamber International, pose with past and present members of the JCI Korea.

Day 3 of the JCI trip: Leaving for Seoul

RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

Mayor Juan Tudela makes a toast during a meeting past and present JCI members.

RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

Mayor Juan B. Tudela and Joe C. Tenorio from the Saipan Mayor's Office enjoy dinner.

restaurant to meet up with JCI's past and present members.

The two mayors talked about the duties of being a mayor in their own cities and also emphasized the importance of continuing the cultural exchange program to strengthen cultural ties and friendship.

After the brief meeting, we drove to meet with the rest of the group at the restaurant who were already feasting on their Korean barbecue and bulgogi.

What else can I say about the little get-together other than it was incredibly fun.

One student from the group, Tinian High School's Grace Borja, had a birthday that evening. While some of us were singing the traditional Happy Birthday to her, some were singing Korean pop music. I thought I even heard *It's a Small World*. Anyhow, it was all in good fun. It was about almost 9pm when we started to head back to our hotel room.

I think the time spent with the JCI members was likely one of the most fun times the group has had during their Korea visit

To be continued.

According to JCI member Jae Kim, the houses are now occupied by senior citizens, while the much younger generations choose to live in the cities.

The Junior Chamber International sponsor members also took the group to a nearby market where most of the villagers buy their groceries and other goods.

After our brief educational visit of the small village, we had to brace ourselves for an even longer ride as it was the day to head on to Seoul, Korea. We had to switch buses before we completely leave Yeong Deok.

On our way to Seoul, we stopped by several tourist location, including the site of 24 huge power generating windmills.

The windmills, which are made out of steel and wood, provide electricity to 40,000 households in Korea, minimizing the use of fossil fuel for electricity.

Right on the same spot were at least six beautifully preserved old Korean warplanes. Other tourists were on the site to take pictures. Some of the CNMI students also had their pictures taken with the Korean tourists at the site.

It was truly a long ride to Seoul as the JCI president Yang Chul Jang warned us. Luckily, the cold air and the heavy lunch got the entire group snoring throughout the entire four-hour long ordeal.

I woke up just enough to capture Korea's beautiful scenery between the two cities. Mountains, cotton fields, peach trees and rice fields stretched for acres.

We got to our new hotel around 5:30pm and we only had an hour to get ready and meet up with the mayor of YangPyong.

Saipan Mayor Tudela Juan B. Tudela, chaperone Jose C. Tenorio and I met at the lobby and headed off to the Yang Pyong Mayor's Office while the rest of the group head on to a popular Korean

RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

Different Korean specialties are on display at one of the restaurant stops the group made.

RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

Tinian High School's Grace Borja is presented with a birthday cake.

Living large in Los Angeles

By TERESA WATANABE
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sumo wrestlers warm up at the Los Angeles Sports Arena before a media demonstration.

LOS ANGELES—It's morning in La La Land, and the usual characters are roaming the star-studded sidewalks of Hollywood Boulevard. Supergirl is here; so are Catwoman and Zorro, clad in black and trademark masks.

Suddenly, an entourage of massive men in long robes, split-toed sandals and greased topknots stride down the sidewalk and stop before Grauman's Chinese Theater. The crowd of tourists stares uncertainly. Then they get it.

Sumo wrestlers! Real ones.

For the first time in 27 years, Grand Sumo—the All-Star Game of this ancient sport—has come to Los Angeles. And with it, 40 or so of Japan's biggest and brightest sumo celebrities. These aren't the amateur guys who wrestle in boxing shorts or the entertainers who show up at parties in inflatable fat suits.

Dressed according to rank, toned by intense training and bearing miens both dignified and playful, these men are the authentic heirs to Japan's 1,500-year-old iconic sport of sumo.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sumo wrestler Tochiozan gets his hair put into a topknot, the trademark look for the disciplined athletes. The sport is steeped in vestiges of Japan's ancient Shinto religion and martial arts.

"They're real!" shrieked Mary Luca, 28, a Hollywood sidewalk entertainer clad in a red pirate costume. "I thought they were just dressing up!"

With grand spectacle steeped in vestiges of Japan's ancient Shinto religion and martial arts, the sumo wrestlers opened their two-day sumo tournament at the Los Angeles Sports Arena last weekend to a crowd of more than 10,000 fans.

Solemn wrestlers paraded down the aisles and onto the small stage at the arena's center, elaborate ceremonial aprons strapped over their mawashi, or sumo belts. To the clicking of a wooden instrument, they circled, turned outward and circled again.

The two grand champions, who are Mongolian, were by far the biggest crowd-pleasers, judging from the roars as they were introduced.

Two by two, stripped to their belts, the wrestlers faced off in an ages-old choreography.

Each match began with a polite bow and a graceful squat. In a flash, the pair were bound in a fierce grip, one man attempting to force the other to the ground or outside the ring. Once, two wrestlers toppled in tandem to the floor while wrapped together. Three dignified dark-gowned judges appeared on stage and conferred briefly. The men fell at the same time and would face off in a rematch, they deemed.

The intense matches capped two lightweight days on the tourist circuit: visiting Hollywood Boulevard, touring Universal Studios, attending a Los Angeles Dodgers baseball game, hitting parties and shopping for extra-extra-large clothes.

And everywhere this group of huge men walked, people gawked and grinned at the collective sight of body mass—more than 6 tons all told.

The wrestlers, who typically travel between official tournaments in Japan and exhibitions to promote the sport abroad and in smaller Japanese cities, are well accustomed to the limelight. They obligingly signed autographs, posed for pictures, got hugs and even kisses.

But they also did some gawking of their own, snapping photos of the Hollywood theater marquees, planting their feet into the footprints of George Clooney and other stars, and hamming it up, as a phalanx of Japanese journalists recorded every second.

In Hollywood, popular Japanese wrestler Takamisakari—nicknamed "RoboCop" in Japan—clowned around with the crowd, lifting up Supergirl and striking a triumphant "Rocky" victory pose over the footprints of Sylvester Stallone.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Hakuho, one of the top sumos in the world, takes a swing at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

"I watch movies a lot and feel Hollywood's energy," Takamisakari said.

Hollywood, in fact, topped the list of images many wrestlers said they had of Los Angeles. Bulgarian sumo star Kotooshu—known as the "David Beckham of sumo" for his boyish good looks—said his most anticipated free-time activity here was attending a party, possibly with some celebrities.

For men who tip the scales at 300-plus pounds, one oft-mentioned marvel was America's proclivity for supersizing.

In his blog from Los Angeles, wrestler Kotoshogiku posted a picture of a massive slab of meat and huge iced platter of sashimi and shrimp from the group's welcome reception meal. "This is American size! Everything is BIG!" he wrote.

Sipping an iced latte at Starbucks downtown, wrestler Tamakasuga asked for directions to the nearest Wal-Mart so he could experience a U.S. superstore and find American-sized clothes that fit him. Over at Universal Studio's City Walk, Kotooshu managed to snare a size 40 pair of shorts and a 2-XL T-shirt.

At Universal Studios, Kotooshu and a couple of other wrestlers not only posed with Shrek, they also lifted him off his feet and mugged for the cameras. Plans for them to ride the Jurassic Park and Mummy attractions were shelved because the lap bar would not have been able to safely close over their girth, according to a Universal Studios spokeswoman.

The tournament was the brainchild of Shigemitsu Inohana, a retired Japanese businessman who lives in Maui. Inohana said he wanted to show Americans authentic Japanese culture.

"Sumo is not just a sport," Inohana said. "This is traditional culture with a long history."

The wrestlers are powerful athletes who rigorously train day and night, building enormous strength and the flexibility to touch their noses to the ground in full splits. Codes of honor, respect and dignity in performing the sport are also critical, they say.

"It's not just two fat guys going at it," said Musashimaru, a Samoa native who wrestled for 15 years and rose to the near-top of the sumo world before retiring a few years ago and who is now an "oyakata," or coach.

"The point isn't just to win or lose," said wrestler Yotsuguruma, 29. "It's to do your best with the appropriate courtesy and etiquette. You should never gloat when you win. And even if you lose, you feel thankful to your opponent for what you can learn from him."

According to the Japan Sumo Association, the earliest matches were rituals dedicated to the gods for a bountiful harvest. In the 8th century, sumo became part of festivities for the Imperial Court, then was used to develop warrior training techniques under subsequent military governments.

Sumo as practiced today has evolved in the last 400 years. The contest seems simple enough, with victory determined by the wrestler who is the first to throw his opponent out of the ring or get him to touch the ground with any part of the body.

And, for professional wrestlers, sumo is an all-encompassing way of life that requires communal living in groups known as stables, governed by feudalistic and hierarchical rules that require, for instance, lower-ranking wrestlers to cook, clean and serve higher-ranking ones.

Despite the centuries of tradition, Japanese sumo is undergoing a noticeable change: an influx of foreigners. While Hawaiians blazed the way to open up Japan's once-insular sumo world, the Los Angeles tournament features two Mongolians and a Bulgarian as three of the top stars.

First Year Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

†Domingo Castro Dela Cruz

invite all our families, relatives, and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first year anniversary of his new life.

Daily Rosary & Mass will be offered at San Antonio Church beginning on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 . Rosary will start at 5:15pm and the Mass will follow at 6:00pm.

On the final day, Wednesday, June 18, 2008, Rosary will be prayed at 5:15pm followed by Eucharistic Celebration Mass at 6:00pm. Dinner will follow immediately after the Mass at the San Antonio Social Hall.

Thank You Yan Sen Dangkulo Na Si Yu'uss Ma'ase

Lourdes P. Dela Cruz and Children

THE WASHINGTON POST

"All Together Now" documents the intensive collaboration between the Beatles and Cirque du Soleil to make "Love," the Las Vegas show based on Beatles music. The film opens the Silverdocs film festival in Silver Spring, Md. In this clip are Yoko Ono (in white), George Martin (rear with his son Giles), Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Barbara Bach and Olivia Harrison (far right).

All you need are stolen moments

By ELLEN MCCARTHY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Director Adrian Wills will tell you that he basically embezzled "All Together Now," the film that opens this year's Silverdocs festival Monday.

The documentary, which follows the drama-soaked creation of "Love," a dazzling Cirque du Soleil show based on Beatles music, winds up looking, he says, "like we had all the access in the world." In fact, "what it is, is stolen moments."

Wills was brought in just as rehearsals were getting underway for the collaboration. The filmmaker had produced short documentaries on previous Cirque shows and was wrapping up another project when an executive from the innovative Canadian circus company called saying, he recalls, "Yoko Ono and Olivia Harrison are coming into Cirque, and we need someone to film it."

The initial idea for "Love" was born of the friendship between Beatles guitarist George Harrison and Cirque founder Guy Laliberte. Harrison died in 2001, before the show evolved into anything more than an idea, but his memory served as the catalyst to produce it.

"All Together Now" cuts into the heart of the production process rather than focusing on the show's technical, physical flourishes (of which there are many). Beatles songs are sacred to many, including the remaining members of the band and the widows of those who've died. Any attempt to alter or interpret, as was clearly the intention, is harshly scrutinized, if not nixed outright.

After one early rehearsal, Wills' cameras catch Harrison and Ono giving the show's director critical notes about the way their husbands' songs were being portrayed.

"There was a nervousness about, 'Well, what's it gonna be?' " said Jonathan Clyde, a producer with Apple Corps, the company that handles everything Beatles. "Cirque and Apple are very independent companies not used to giving up control over anything. There was apprehension over how this was going to go."

"All Together Now" captures the ensuing creative clashes and softer emotional arcs that took place throughout the production of "Love," which is still on stage in Las Vegas. Sir George Martin, the music producer known fondly as the "Fifth Beatle," comes in to remix and arrange the show's music. Martin's son, Giles, had spent much of his life distancing himself from his father's great shadow, but as the elder Martin's hearing starts to fail, the two become enmeshed partners, protecting and perfecting the songs.

The challenge for Wills and his team was to document the drama as it was unfolding, while pushing for access and interviews that would elevate the film beyond a simple "making of" video. Eventually he talked to Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney, Ono, Harrison and both Martins.

And Wills, who will be on hand for the Silverdocs debut Monday, used every drop of insight he was given by the band's inner circle. Of the 16 minutes he was allowed to speak with Ringo Starr, 12 of them appear in the final cut.

"We knew the film was going to be emotional. We wanted it to be as intimate as possible," the director explains. "I remember after the interview, Yoko Ono turned to me. ... She said, 'Be kind.' The inference was, 'be respectful,' you know. I said, 'We're not making a commercial, we're making a movie. But I'll be truthful to the way I'm seeing it.'"

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I haven't heard much lately about Lindsay Lohan (not that I am complaining or anything). Has she gone into hiding, or is she just trying to keep a low profile since all her earlier troubles with partying and alcohol and the like?—Heather P., via e-mail

A: As of this writing, Lindsay has been trying to keep much of her personal life on the down low and is concentrating on her career. She guest-starred on the season finale of "Ugly Betty" and is scheduled to appear in a few more episodes next season. She also is slated to appear in the feature films "Dare to Love Me" and "Ye Olde Times."

■ ■ ■

Q: What would it take to get Kathryn Erbe of "Law and Order: Criminal Intent" to shampoo her hair and get it out of her face? She has this frequent "tic," in that she constantly tries to shake the hair out of her eyes. I try to count how many times she does this in an episode. It's very disconcerting!—Honey S., Fort Myers, Fla.

A: I really don't have an answer to your question, but I did want to print it because, believe it or not, I have received at least a dozen similar letters in the past few months. Hopefully the show's hairstylist will see this and make the necessary changes ... but I doubt it!

■ ■ ■

Q: I am a huge fan of "Sanford and Son" and wonder what happened to Demond Wilson, the actor who played Lamont Sanford.—Harvey B., Verona, Va.

A: Demond Wilson played the long-suffering son on "Sanford and Son" from its premiere in January 1972 until its final episode in March 1977—during which time the show saw its star, Redd Foxx, walk off the set in 1974 after disagreements with the show's producers, only to come back later on in the next season. However, Demond did not appear in "Sanford," the short-lived attempt to revive the series. He also starred in 1982's "The New Odd Couple" and had guest spots on "Girlfriends" and "The Love Boat."

Kathryn Erbe

Demond, now 61, has spent most of his post-"Sanford" time devoted to God and his teachings. He became a minister in 1984 and founded the Restoration House in 1994, which offers spiritual guidance and vocation training to former prison inmates.

■ ■ ■

Q: Were actors Vic Morrow and Jeff Morrow related?—Herbert F., Galax, Va.

A: Vic Morrow ("Combat!" and "The Bad News Bears") and Jeff Morrow (many Westerns of the '50s and '60s) were not related, although they did share more than just their last name. They both appeared in a version of "The Twilight Zone" as their final starring vehicle. Vic was tragically killed in 1982 on the set of "Twilight Zone: The Movie," while Jeff starred in a 1986 episode of "The New Twilight Zone," seven years before his death.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 POP SINGLES

This Week Last Week

1. Lil Wayne feat. Static Major No. 3 "Lollipop" (Cash Money)
2. Leona Lewis No. 2 "Bleeding Love" (Syco/3)
3. Rihanna No. 1 "Take a Bow" (SRP/Def Jam)
4. Usher feat. Young Jeezy No. 5 "Love In This Club" (LaFace)
5. Jordin Sparks duet with Chris Brown No. 4 "No Air" (19/Jive)
6. Ray J & Yung Berg No. 6 "Sexy Can I" (Knockout/Deja 34)
7. Madonna feat. Justin Timberlake No. 7 "4 Minutes" (Warner Bros.)
8. Natasha Bedingfield No. 9 "Pocketful of Sunshine" (Phonogenic)
9. Mariah Carey No. 8 "Touch My Body" (Island)
10. Danity Kane No. 10 "Damaged" (Bad Boy)

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. Death Cab For Cutie new entry "Narrow Stairs" (Barsuk/Atlantic)
2. Frank Sinatra new entry " Nothing But the Best" (Reprise)
3. Jason Mraz new entry "We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things." (Atlantic)
4. Duffy new entry "Rockferry" (Mercury)
5. Leona Lewis No. 6 "Spirit" (SYCO/J)
6. Mariah Carey No. 5 "E=MC2" (Island)
7. Neil Diamond No. 1 "Home Before Dark" (Columbia)
8. Madonna No. 3 "Hard Candy" (Warner Bros.)
9. Toby Keith No. 2 "35 Biggest Hits" (Show Dog Nashville)
10. Keith Sweat new entry "Just Me" (Kela/Atco)

TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES

1. Brad Paisley No. 2 "I'm Still a Guy" (Arista Nashville)
2. Phil Vassar No. 3 "Love is a Beautiful Thing" (Universal South)
3. James Otto No. 1 "Just Got Started Lovin' You" (Warner Bros.)
4. Rascal Flatts No. 6 "Every Day" (Lyric Street)
5. Lady Antebellum No. 8 "Love Don't Live Here" (Capitol Nashville)
6. George Strait No. 5 "I Saw God Today" (MCA Nashville)
7. Carrie Underwood No. 10 "Last Name" (Arista)
8. Kenny Chesney No. 9 "Better As a Memory" (BNA)
9. Taylor Swift No. 4 "Picture to Burn" (Big Machine)
10. Montgomery Gentry No. 11 "Back When I Knew It All" (Columbia)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
2. The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) Ben Barnes, Skandar Keynes
3. Iron Man (PG-13) Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard
4. What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher
5. Speed Racer (PG) Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci
6. Baby Mama (PG-13) Tina Fey, Amy Poehler
7. Made of Honor (PG-13) Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan
8. Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) Kristen Bell, Jason Segel
9. Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) John Cho, Kal Penn
10. The Visitor (PG-13) Richard Jenkins, Hiam Abbass

TOP 10 VIDEO/DVD RENTALS

1. Mad Money (PG-13) Diane Keaton (Starz/Anchor Bay)
2. Untraceable (R) Diane Lane (Sony Pictures)
3. P.S. I Love You (PG-13) Hilary Swank (Warner)
4. The Great Debaters (PG-13) Denzel Washington (Genius/Weinstein)
5. 27 Dresses (PG-13) Katherine Heigl (Fox)
6. First Sunday (PG-13) Ice Cube (Sony Pictures)
7. The Golden Compass (PG-13) Nicole Kidman (New Line)
8. Juno (PG-13) Ellen Page (Fox)
9. Cloverfield (PG-13) Lizzy Caplan (Paramount)
10. I'm Not There (R) Cate Blanchette (Genius/Weinstein)

TOP 10 DVD SALES

1. P.S. I Love You (PG-13) (Warner)
2. 27 Dresses (PG-13) (20th Century Fox)
3. First Sunday (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
4. The Golden Compass (PG-13) (New Line)
5. Juno (PG-13) (20th Century Fox)
6. Alvin and The Chipmunks (PG) (20th Century Fox)
7. Cloverfield (PG-13) (Paramount)
8. Over Her Dead Body (PG-13) (New Line)
9. Charlie Wilson's War (R) (Universal)
10. Enchanted (PG) (Walt Disney)

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Snoop Dogg's wife nabbed for DUI

FULLERTON, Calif. (AP)—Police say the wife of rapper Snoop Dogg has been arrested in California's Orange County for investigation of driving under the influence of alcohol.

This image provided by the Fullerton Calif. Police Department shows Shante Broadus, wife of rapper Snoop Dogg, after her arrest for investigation of driving under the influence of alcohol in Fullerton, Calif. early Saturday, July 14, 2008.

AP

Fullerton police Lt. Craig Brower says officers stopped 32-year-old Shante (Shahntaye) Broadus of Sherman Oaks about 12:15 a.m. Saturday and took her to jail. She was cited and then released pending a court appearance.

Brower says nobody else was in the car but he didn't have any other details.

Broadus and Snoop Dogg—whose real name is Calvin Broadus Jr.—were married in 1997 and have three children.

A message left with Snoop Dogg's publicist was not immediately returned.

Richie pledges Commodores reunion

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (AP)—Grammy award-winning pop singer Lionel Richie said Saturday that he and the Commodores will reunite soon for a tour.

Richie said a reunion could happen in the next two years.

"We better do it now, or in the next 10 years nobody would care," he told reporters before singing at Antigua's Romantic Rhythms festival.

Richie, 58, said it was important for the group to get together before it loses more band members. Lead guitarist Milan Williams died two years ago.

Richie was confident that synergy still existed between band members. He said Commodores' bass player Ronald La Pread joined him on stage during his last tour and played some of the group's old hits.

The Commodores were known for hits like "Three Times a Lady" and "Brick House."

Richie broke away from the Commodores in the late 1970s and topped the charts in the 1980s with songs like "Endless Love" and "Say You, Say Me."

AP

Lionel Richie performs at the TV Land Awards on Sunday June 8, 2008 in Santa Monica, Calif.

Sandinistas split over revolution hymn

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—A famous Nicaraguan revolutionary singer-songwriter has asked the government to stop using his music.

Carlos Mejia Godoy, who penned the hymn of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front, said in a letter published Saturday that President Daniel Ortega and his staff are not authorized to use his songs during government events.

He did not dispute the use of the party hymn he wrote, but he gave government-supported television and radio outlets a week to stop using a version he recorded.

Mejia Godoy is among several Sandinistas who formed a new party after breaking with Ortega, who also served as Sandinista leader in the 1980s and fought U.S.-backed Contra rebels.

"I cannot allow songs inspired by the sacrifice of thousands of Nicaraguan people to serve as a musical backdrop for ... the most embarrassing tragicomedy in recent years," said Mejia Godoy, who ran unsuccessfully for vice president in 2006 when Ortega won the presidency.

McCartney gives Ukraine charity concert

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Tens of thousands of people braved heavy rain and thunder Saturday night to see Paul McCartney perform a charity concert on Kiev's central Independence Square.

The outdoor show, the first in Ukraine for the former Beatle, was billed as the biggest concert ever in the former Soviet republic. It was broadcast live on national television and on giant screens in five cities.

After a half-hour delay because of the weather, McCartney, who turns 66 next week, came out on the stage and greeted the crowd in Ukrainian, before diving into the Beatles hit "Drive My Car."

He followed up with a series of Beatles songs, including "Hey Jude," "Let it Be," "Back in the U.S.S.R.," and "Penny Lane." The show also included a rendition of "A Day in the Life," which McCartney dedicated to John Lennon.

McCartney returned for his encore waving a Ukrainian flag and finished off the two-hour show with fireworks, a rendition of "Yesterday" and a musical finale.

Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili was in attendance.

YSL fashion to be auctioned off

NEW YORK (AP)—A month after the death of Yves Saint Laurent, Christie's is auctioning seven pieces of the legendary French fashion designer's clothing and jewelry representing nearly every decade of his career.

The items at the July 2 auction include a 1958 cocktail dress for Dior and a 1970s Rive Gauche camel cable-knit sweater trimmed in fox fur similar to one Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis wore.

"What's exciting about the collection is that you see the progression of his career. He was a real style-setter," said Christie's couture specialist Laura Leyfer.

Saint Laurent died on June 1 at age 71. Considered one of the most influential designers of the 20th century, his creations—from pop-art print mini-dresses to peasant skirts and elegant pantsuits—endure to this day.

AP

This photo provided by Christie's auction house shows an Yves Saint Laurent cut-out floral necklace from Spring/Summer 1990 with an estimated selling price of $1,000-1,500.

The cable-knit sweater—with a pre-sale estimate of $250 to $400—is a version of one Onassis was often photographed wearing, a style she owned in several colors, according to Christie's auction catalog.

All of the items are in excellent condition and are relatively inexpensive because they aren't new designs and have been worn, Leyfer said Friday. "That's part of the appeal and it's what makes it a collectible," she said.

Another item for sale is a dusty pink layered tulle evening dress with metallic pink and silver embroidery, which Saint Laurent designed for Dior in 1958. It's could fetch $1,000 to $1,500.

Girl hanging out with older boys is headed for trouble

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 19 years old and have known a girl I'll call Emma for a couple of years. She's 14 and like a member of my family—a little sister. My parents joke that Emma is their second daughter.

Emma is an only child and lives with her mother. Her dad is an alcoholic who is currently serving time in prison. Lately Emma has been hanging out with a group of 18- and 19-year-old boys who let her drink and smoke pot with them. People say she's just "doing what all teens do," but I have never smoked or had a drink in my life.

Should I tell Emma's mother what's going on and risk losing our relationship, or should I wait to see if it's just a phase? I feel responsible, but don't know what to do.

BIG SISTER IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR BIG SISTER: Tell Emma's mother NOW. Because Emma's father is an alcoholic, she already has the predisposition to become one. The longer you procrastinate, the greater her chances of getting into serious trouble—and face it, she's already well on her way. The "boys" Emma is hanging out with are too old for her, and girls under the influence of alcohol and marijuana make mistakes that can affect the rest of their lives.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 26, and "Henry," my boyfriend of five years, and I are expecting our first child. We're not married, but plan to be sometime after the baby arrives.

My problem is my mother. She keeps telling me that because Henry and I aren't married, the baby's last name should be my maiden name. She says it's the law. I always believed that a child's last name should be the father's last name, married or not.

Is my mother right, or is our baby entitled to have his father's last name?

SECOND THOUGHTS IN SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: According to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records, because you and Henry are not married, in order for his name to appear on the baby's birth certificate, he will have to sign a Declaration of Paternity. This can be done in the hospital at the time of the child's birth. However, because you don't live in L.A. County, and laws can vary in different places, check with the birth clerk at the hospital where the baby will be delivered.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently celebrated a birthday and was taken to lunch by a couple who are like a second set of parents to me. As they always do, they presented me with a card filled with cash. The cash was a combination of $10s and $20s.

I opened the card in front of them, read the sentiment inside and thanked them from the bottom of my heart. However, it is always awkward because I never know what to do with the money. Is it proper to count it in front of them, or acknowledge the cash, close the card and count it later in private?

GRATEFUL IN ORLANDO

DEAR GRATEFUL: You should thank your benefactors warmly for their generosity, close the card and count the money privately. Then write them a sweet note in which you thank them again for the amount they gave you. To count the money in their presence would make it appear you are fixated on the amount.

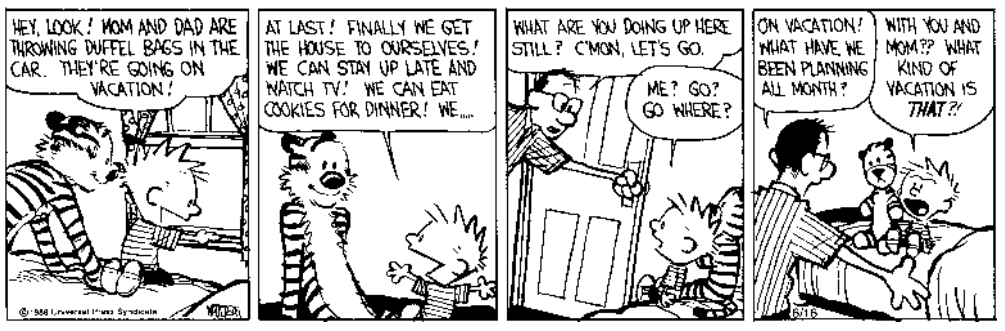
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

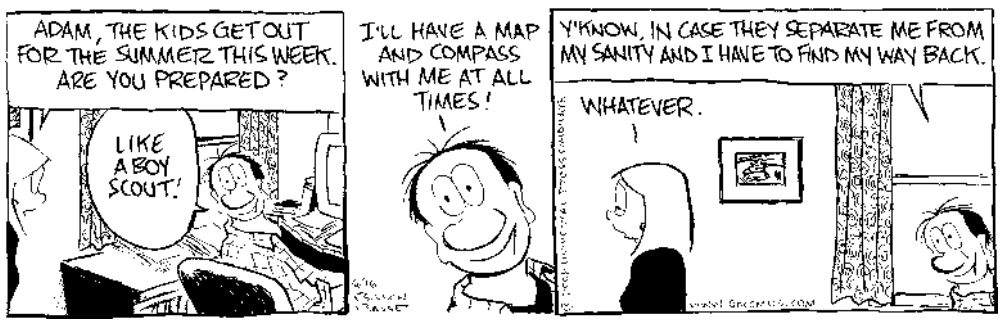

HEY, LOOK! MOM AND DAD ARE THROWING DUFFEL BAGS IN THE CAR. THEY'RE GOING ON VACATION!
AT LAST! FINALLY WE GET THE HOUSE TO OURSELVES! WE CAN STAY UP LATE AND WATCH TV! WE CAN EAT COOKIES FOR DINNER! WE....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE STILL? C'MON, LET'S GO.
ME? GO? GO WHERE?
ON VACATION! WHAT HAVE WE BEEN PLANNING ALL MONTH?
WITH YOU AND MOM?? WHAT KIND OF VACATION IS THAT?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

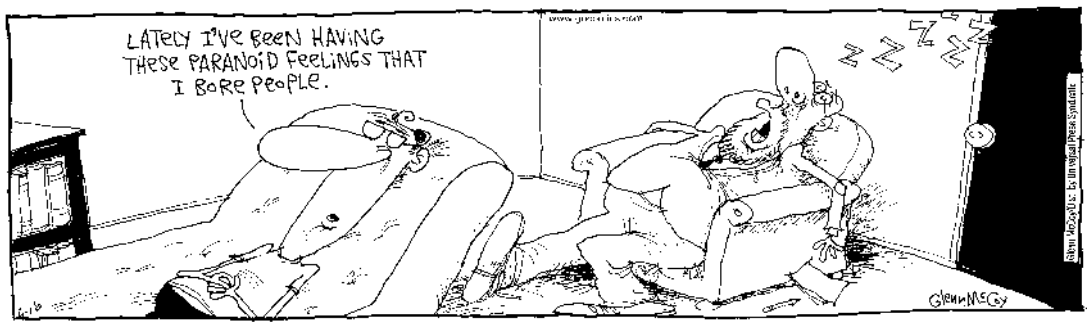
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, THE KIDS GET OUT FOR THE SUMMER THIS WEEK. ARE YOU PREPARED?
LIKE A BOY SCOUT!
I'LL HAVE A MAP AND COMPASS WITH ME AT ALL TIMES!
Y'KNOW, IN CASE THEY SEPARATE ME FROM MY SANITY AND I HAVE TO FIND MY WAY BACK.
WHATEVER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Circle fragment
4 Annoys
9 $ dispenser
12 Bribe
13 Agra is there
14 Greek consonant
15 Advantage at the outset
17 Scratch
18 Dined on
19 Audits, perhaps
21 Golf legend Arnold
24 Jog
25 Before
26 Equipment
28 Bizarre
31 Almost
33 Wire measure
35 Carbonated drink
36 Flavorful
38 Autumnal abbr.
40 Integers (Abbr.)
41 Sci-fi fleet
43 Ornamental disk
45 Elevate
47 Seek restitution
48 Zero
49 Having no ties
54 Hockey surface
55 Heron's cousin
56 Have a bug
57 Pitch
58 Color workers
59 Spinning stat

DOWN
1 Blond shade
2 Fish eggs
3 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
4 Man's address
5 Meanwhile
6 Food-safety org.
7 Primarily
8 Spoof
9 Apollo 11 passenger
10 Siamese
11 Early hours
16 Weir
20 Stocking stuffers?
21 Pocket-protector contents
22 Operatic solo
23 Hoax specialist
27 Card-table announcement
29 Pedestal occupant
30 Relaxation
32 Stereo setup
34 Maine entree
37 Removed, as a hat
39 Leaps
42 Cigar (Var.)
44 Ultra-modern
45 One
46 12-point type
50 Raw rock
51 Rowboat need
52 Quick taste
53 Shade provider

Solution time: 24 mins.

F	E	D		M	A	D	E		H	O	A	R
O	A	R		I	C	E	S		E	R	G	O
U	S	A		S	U	F	T		I	F	I	S
R	E	G	I	S	T	R	A	T	I	O	N	S
			C	E	E		T	A	X			
F	L	O	O	D		P	E	Z		B	E	D
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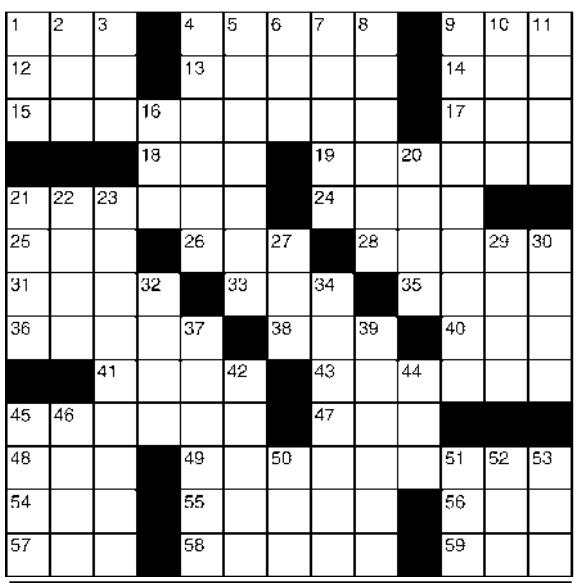
R	E	G	I	S	A	N	D	K	E	L	L	Y
A	M	O	K		N	O	D	E		A	Y	E
G	I	B	E		D	O	L	L		I	E	L
S	T	I	R		S	K	Y	S		E	S	P

Saturday's answer 6-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keshia Chante, 20; Ben Kweller, 27; Joan Van Ark, 65; Joyce Carol Oates, 70

Happy Birthday: You have plenty to deal with this year but you can handle it and, in doing so, will eliminate a lot of the stress from your life. Happiness is not far off if you make decisions and follow through. Additional responsibilities will be dropped in your lap if you aren't adamant about not accepting what doesn't belong to you. Your numbers are 3, 9, 14, 21, 35, 37

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't take financial risks or let someone talk you into spending money unnecessarily. Negativity will influence the way you do things as well as your attitude toward loved ones. Being positive and fun will help others as well. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotional issues will surface. Don't try to avoid the unavoidable—it will only make you look bad. Face personal and partnership matters head on and put them behind you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can convince anyone of anything, so start talking and don't stop until you get what you want. Aggressive action will pay off and help you impress the very people who mean so much to you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stop being so hard on yourself and the ones you love. It's time to let the past go and the negativity diminish. Focus on your peers, pets and friendships and you will realize that you have much more going for you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep things running smoothly by avoiding exaggeration or promises that aren't feasible. Push yourself hard so you can make headway at work and still have enough time to play with your friends. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Watch what everyone around you is doing. There will be telltale signs of what to expect and who you can count on. An emotional matter regarding children or elders in your family will take you by surprise. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can't sit idle when you have so much going on around you. Visit a friend or connect with someone interesting. Love is mounting and, with a few nice words and warm signals, you can look forward to a great evening. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let the personal things get you down. Not everything you assume is right and, in the end, you will discover you have wasted time worrying over nothing. Put your time into getting something you've been working on off the ground. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A money deal is there for the taking. Don't hesitate when all you have to do is make a few calls and pester a few people to help you out. Love is looking very promising. Someone will entice you. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): All work will lead to personal problems. Take time out to help someone you love with the things that he or she finds difficult. Your time will mean more to the ones you love than anything you can possibly buy for them. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You are in demand and eager to please. Love is on the rise and you can settle any personal issues you may have been dealing with. A change at home can be expected but it will turn out to be the best thing that ever happened to you. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): There is a deal to be looked at so don't walk away thinking it is too small or not for you. It will turn out to be very different than expected and possibly the ideal choice for you given your personal situation. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, intelligent and eager to please. You are outgoing, worldly and a philosopher. You love tradition but don't necessarily stick to one throughout life.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	7		8				
9		4					1	
1	3		6		5			
		5		9		6		
4			2		8			3
		6		3		8		
			8		4		7	1
	5					9		4
				2		3	8	

Difficulty Level ★ 6/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	5	6	3	2	7	9	8
9	8	3	7	1	5	4	6	2
6	2	7	4	8	9	5	3	1
8	7	9	2	4	3	6	1	5
5	3	4	1	6	8	9	2	7
2	1	6	5	9	7	8	4	3
4	6	2	8	7	1	3	5	9
7	9	1	3	5	6	2	8	4
3	5	8	9	2	4	1	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DUAL CORE PROCESSORS Solution: 7 letters

M	S	T	I	B	T	R	E	S	O	U	R	C	E	S
L	O	A	D	I	N	G	A	M	U	S	I	C	U	I
E	F	T	W	I	N	O	I	T	A	R	E	P	O	M
C	T	E	H	C	A	C	E	Q	E	N	P	R	S	U
N	W	C	A	E	O	O	I	V	U	O	A	O	P	L
A	A	H	R	N	R	M	A	R	R	A	N	G	E	T
M	R	N	D	U	O	B	P	T	T	E	D	R	E	A
R	E	O	W	E	N	I	O	U	C	E	S	A	D	N
O	X	L	A	M	T	N	T	A	T	E	M	M	H	E
F	E	O	R	E	E	A	I	C	R	E	N	M	G	O
R	C	G	E	M	C	T	C	N	N	D	R	N	Y	U
E	U	Y	S	O	H	I	S	O	G	U	O	S	O	S
P	T	P	D	R	I	O	V	Y	L	S	F	R	E	C
F	E	E	D	Y	P	N	A	E	S	L	A	T	A	D
C	L	O	C	K	G	N	I	L	D	N	A	H	D	S

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Allocate, Arrange, Bits, Cache, Chip, Clock, Code, Combination, Computers, Connect, Data, Device, Execute, Feed, Function, Handling, Hardware, Loading, Manage, Memory, Motherboard, Music, Operation, Performance, Program, Quad, Rate, Resources, Running, Serve, Simultaneous, Software, Song, Spec, Speed, Support, Symmetric, System, Technology, Twin

Last Saturday's Answer: Yellow

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Tiger delivers prime-time performance

SANDIEGO (AP)—Tiger Woods delivered a performance worthy of prime time Saturday in the U.S. Open. He kept an East Coast television audience and a sellout crowd at Torrey Pines in suspense when his left knee buckled and he nearly dropped to the ground from the sheer pain, limping along with his club as a cane. The drama came on the last six holes, when he turned a five-shot deficit into a one-shot lead.

And the amazing array of shots that put him atop the leaderboard? Pure science-fiction.

"The stuff he does, it's unreal," said Rocco Mediate, who watched it all unfold from the group behind.

First came Woods' 70-foot eagle putt on the 13th to get back in the game. Then it was a chip that he struck too hard, only to bow his head and laugh when it one-hopped into the hole for birdie on the 17th. Woods ended one of his most exciting rounds in a major with a 30-foot eagle putt on the 18th hole for a 1-under 70 and a one-shot lead over Lee Westwood.

It was pure theater at Torrey Pines, leaving 50,000 fans and even his competitors wondering what hit them.

"It's just the most amazing display of athletic, mental power that there is, there ever was," said Mediate, who had a three-shot lead early on the back nine until a four-hole meltdown. "Look at him. He hasn't played in 10 weeks. There's no surprise to me, but he hasn't played for 10 weeks! And he comes here. So I'm not surprised. I can't wait to see what happens tomorrow."

A Woods sequel usually is no mystery.

He has never lost a major when he has at least a share of the 54-hole lead, and it has been seven years since anyone beat him anywhere in the world when he had the lead to himself.

But there never has been so much uncertainly with his name atop the leaderboard in a major.

"Is it getting worse? Yes, it is," Woods said about the burning pain in his left knee from surgery April 15 to clean out cartilage.

AP

Tiger Woods celebrates after making an eagle on the 13th hole during the third round of the US Open championship at Torrey Pines Golf Course on Saturday, June 14, 2008 in San Diego.

The knee caved in after a tee shot on the 15th, again on the 17th, and it stung so badly that he bowed his head and winced on a 5-wood to the 18th, never watching the ball clear the pond and settle 30 feet from the cup.

"I just keep telling myself that if it grabs me and if I get that shooting pain, I get it," Woods said. "But it's always after impact. So go ahead and just make the proper swing if I can."

He played the final six holes in 4 under par—and that included a bogey—and will play in the final group for the sixth time in the last eight majors. This is the first time he has held a 54-hole lead in the U.S. Open since he won at Bethpage Black in 2002.

Woods was at 3-under 210, one of only three players still under par.

Westwood was as solid as Woods was spectacular, playing his final 10 holes without a bogey. He holed a short birdie putt on the par-5 13th and finished with five straight pars, missing a 4-foot birdie on the last hole for a 70. The 35-year-old Englishman has never had this good an opportunity in a major.

He isn't without experience.

The only time Woods failed to win a tournament when leading by more than one shot in the final round, it was Westwood who beat him in Germany eight years ago. Now he has a chance to become the first European to win the U.S. Open since Tony Jacklin of England at Hazeltine in 1970.

"That would be great to follow in his footsteps," Westwood said. "I've won pretty much everything else there is to win. But players are always rated on how many major championships they have won. So it's a good opportunity to try and win one of those."

Mediate, trying to become the oldest U.S. Open champion at age 45, looked as though he would leave everyone behind when he made an 8-foot birdie putt on No. 10 to reach 4 under and kept putting his shots in the fairway and on the green.

But a three-putt bogey on the 13th was the start of a four-hole stretch that he played 4-over par. That included a chip he bladed over the green and into a bunker for double bogey on the 15th. He had to settle for a 72 and was at 1-under 212.

Woods, grimacing with every step over the final hour in sunshine, lightly pumped his fist and smiled when his 30-foot eagle on the final hole broke sharply to the right down the hill and straightened in time to fall into the cup for his third eagle of the tournament.

There were other reasons to look so content.

"I'm done," Woods said. "It was nice that I could finish this round."

Then it was off to his room to ice his left knee, hopeful he can make it through 18 more holes in a major he hasn't won in six years.

Not many would have guessed he would be in this position when he stood on the back of the 13th green, five shots out of the lead, facing a dangerously quick putt down the ridge from 70 feet. It was reminiscent of his putt on the 17th green at Sawgrass in 2001, minus the island. The line was perfect, speeding down the slope and bending sharply to the left in the final foot for an unlikely eagle.

Woods turned and pumped both fists, walking briskly.

But it was the tee shot two holes later where the pain could no longer be disguised. He took his hand off the driver immediately and bent to the ground, balancing himself with his right finger twice. Two holes later, he again failed to get through the swing and sent his tee shot well to the right, again doubling over.

Woods put his approach on the 17th into thick grass between a bunker and the green, giving him an awkward stance with his weight on the painful left side. The flop shot came out hot, and Woods looked concerned as he barked out instruction: "Bite!"

It took one hop and disappeared in the bottom of the cup, and Woods broke into embarrassing laughter as caddie Steve Williams held out his hand to help him onto the green.

"It was just exciting all day," Mediate said. "It was cool to be a part of that."

The third round sure didn't shape up to contain that much excitement at the start.

Woods opened with a double bogey for the second time in three days, but he wasn't alone in his misery.

Stuart Appleby, who had a one-shot lead to start the third round, took four putts from 18 feet on No. 5 for a double bogey and turned a 3-foot birdie into a three-putt bogey on the ninth. He made his only birdie on the 18th hole to break 80.

D.J. Trahan three-putted for par on the 18th hole and threw his ball in the pond after a 73, leaving him at 1-over 214 along with former U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy, who overcame a double bogey on the 14th for a 72.

Phil Mickelson finally put a driver in his bag, but it was the wedge that ended his dream of a U.S. Open victory in his hometown. In a "Tin Cup" moment without the water, Lefty watched three lob wedge shots from 80 yards roll back to his feet on the par-5 13th before the fourth stayed up, and then he three-putted for a quadruple-bogey 9—his highest score in 1,206 holes at the U.S. Open—on his way to a 76. He was at 10-over 223.

"I've had a 9 on 13," Mickelson said. "I was 8 years old. I have had a 9 there."

Lakers' Kobe Bryant on finals: 'It ain't over'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With the same purpose as one of his in-your-face jumpers, Kobe Bryant leaned into the microphone. He promised more NBA finals games to come. "The series ain't over," he said. "It's far from over."

Faced with long odds, Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers returned to the practice floor Saturday for the first time since Game 4, when the Boston Celtics stormed back from a 24-point deficit to win and take a 3-1 lead in this reborn rivalry.

The Lakers have run out of time and tomorrows. It's either win Game 5 on Sunday or pack away the sneakers for summer.

No team has ever come back from a 3-1 deficit in the finals, and even if the Lakers can stave off elimination and win at Staples Center, they'll have to play Games 6 and 7 in Boston, where the Celtics are 12-1 this postseason. Since the league switched to the much-debated 2-3-2 format in 1985, no team has won the last two games on the road.

Their climb is a steep one, and if the Lakers have any chance of mounting a comeback, Bryant, the league's MVP and the game's most transcendent player, most criticized personality and most unstoppable force, must be the one to lead them.

If he's feeling any pressure, Bryant isn't showing it.

The Black Mamba is as cold-blooded as ever.

Bryant was relaxed and jovial during a news conference at the club's practice facility in El Segundo. The three-time champion, whose every gesture and facial expression made toward teammates gets overanalyzed, cracked jokes during a 10-minute session with the media.

Bryant insists the Lakers have moved on since their Game 4 collapse. There's no time to dwell on what happened, all that counts now is what happens next.

"We've got to take care of business on Sunday," said Bryant, who spent much of the past two days relaxing at home with his family. "So what are we going to do? How am I going to get my teammates in the right frame of mind, make sure they're energetic, and that's what it's been all about."

Bryant said he spent much of the past two days reading a Harry Potter book to his daughters.

"It was awesome," he said. "He had more problems dealing with Voldemort than what we have dealing with the media and the Celtics."

Boston is one win from its 17th NBA title and first in 22 years, but the Celtics are wary of Bryant. They've done a decent job of containing him through four games—his only breakout was a 36-point performance in Game 3—but they know Bryant can single-handedly beat them if their not careful.

"We're up 3-1 and we know we have a lot of basketball to play because Kobe is on that team," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "He's the scariest player in the NBA in a lot of ways, so you're fearful of him all the time. A respectful fear."

Bryant didn't score from the field in the first half of Game 4, which the Lakers led by 18 at halftime and by 20 with 6 minutes to go in the third quarter. In the second half, Paul Pierce asked to guard Bryant, a defensive switch that allowed Ray Allen to get his offense going and have his best game of the series.

Pierce's size seemed to bother Bryant, and with none of the other Lakers able to carry the scoring load, Bryant tried to take over down the stretch but couldn't.

"I reached into the hat and couldn't pull the rabbit out," he said.

Allen will likely start on Bryant in Game 5, but Rivers plans to throw different defensive looks at the superstar.

"One guy will not guard Kobe Bryant," he said. "It's just too hard. It's too much work, and it takes all the energy out of that one guy."

Rivers respects Bryant, the player. He respects Bryant, the person, too.

But for all the 29-year-old's brilliance, his 10 All-Star game appearances, two scoring titles and ability to do things on the court that others can only dream of, Bryant can't seem to win over his critics. He hasn't helped his image by demanding to be traded last summer, and there is a segment of fans who have never warmed up to him following his arrest five years ago in Colorado on rape charges.

And then there's his behavior on the court. Bryant is tough on his teammates, some say too tough. If one of the Lakers doesn't perform up to Bryant's expectations, he'll let them know about it with a few well-chosen words, a what-was-that? shoulder shrug or glare.

He's demanding and driven, not unlike Michael Jordan, the player with whom Bryant is so often—fairly or unfairly—compared.

One man has a unique perspective on the two icons. Phil Jackson coached them both.

The Lakers head honcho, who has won nine NBA titles, said it takes some thick skin to be able to handle a teammate constantly pushing you to do better. But he has no problem with Bryant's penchant to require perfection from those around him.

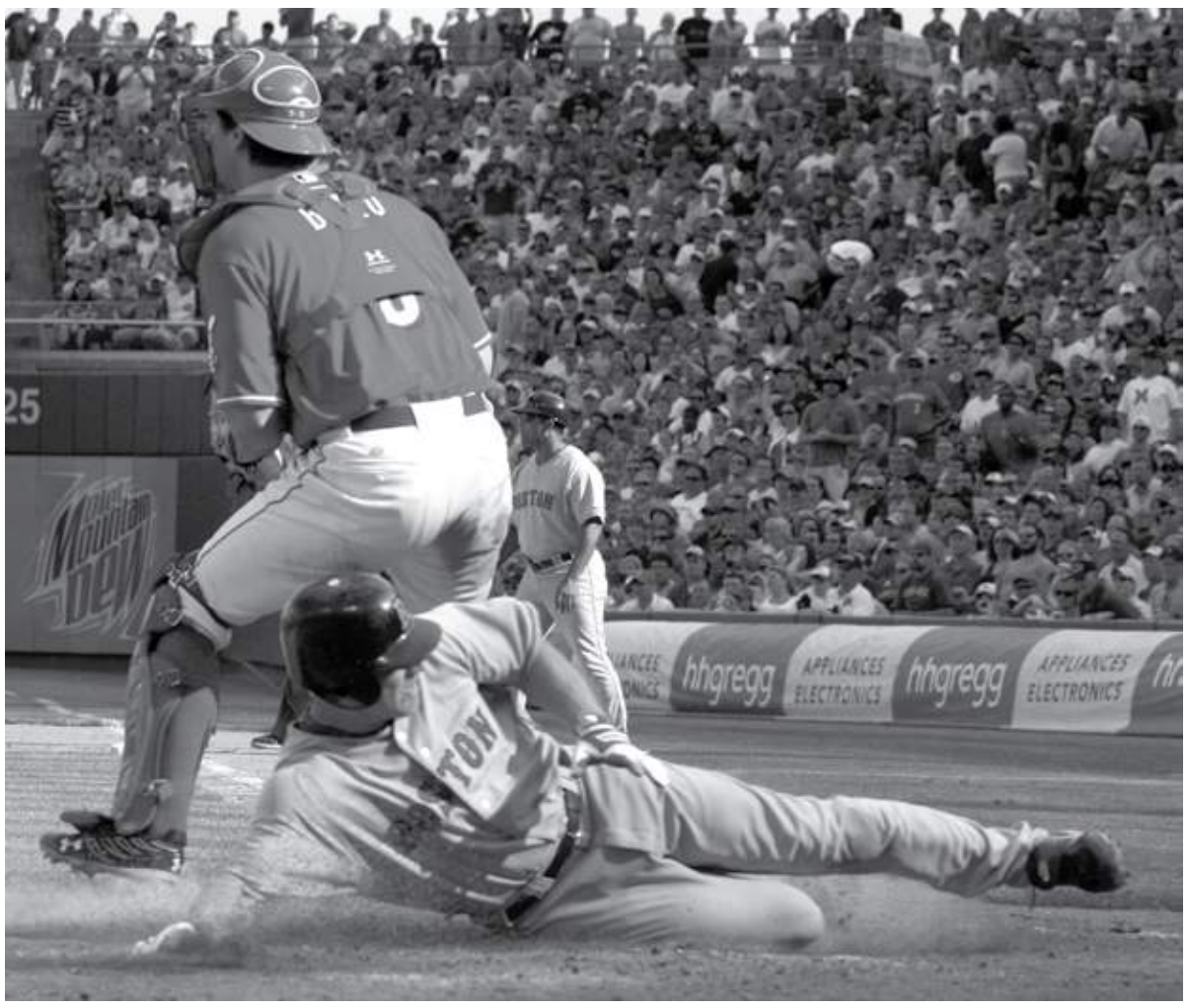
"That's an energy that a lot of players can't stand up to, but we try to find players that can," he said. "It's very challenging and I think it's very aggressive and I think it's good. Having lived with it for a period of time with two different types of players, I can endorse it."

Homers by Youkilis, Crisp lead Red Sox over Reds

CINCINNATI (AP)— Kevin Youkilis singled, doubled and hit a tiebreaking homer in the 10th inning to rally the Boston Red Sox over the Cincinnati Reds 6-4 in Major League Baseball interleague play on Saturday.

The Reds were the team Youkilis adored as a local college star and later resented when it passed him over in the draft. With more than 140 relatives and friends in the stands, the first baseman connected in the 10th off Mike Lincoln (0-2) to snap a 4-all tie. Coco Crisp homered off Lincoln on the next pitch.

Edwin Encarnacion homered to level the score off Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon, who hadn't blown a save since May 9.



AP

Boston Red Sox's J.D. Drew, bottom, scores safely at home past Cincinnati Reds catcher Paul Bako, top, after a Mike Lowell hit in the eighth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, June 14, 2008 in Cincinnati.

Tigers 12, Dodgers 7

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera and Marcus Thames homered and Detroit scored nine runs in the fourth and fifth innings combined to beat Los Angeles.

Cabrera, Thames, Curtis Granderson and Edgar Renteria each drove in two runs for the Tigers, who won their fifth straight game.

Andre Ethier homered and had four RBIs for the Dodgers, who have lost four straight.

Eddie Bonine (1-0) got the win in his major league debut.

Cubs 6, Blue Jays 2

At Toronto, Jason Marquis tossed seven-plus innings to record his third consecutive victory and Reed Johnson hit a three-run homer in Chicago's win over Toronto.

Marquis (5-3) did't allow a hit until Lyle Overbay led off the bottom of the fifth with a single to right-center. He departed after seven-plus innings having allowed one run and four hits.

Johnson, who was released by Toronto on March 23, got some redemption against his former club when he hit a 1-1 fastball from Roy Halladay (8-6) over the wall in left for a three-run shot in the Cubs' four-run second inning.

Yankees 8, Astros 4

At Houston, Mike Mussina pitched six solid innings for his 10th win and helped to lead New York.

Alex Rodriguez hit a fan-aided solo homer and Melky Cabrera, Jose Molina and Wilson Betemit each added a pair of RBIs for the Yankees.

Mussina (10-4) allowed three runs and six hits to reach 10 wins for the 17th straight season, extending his American League record. Mussina 260th victory got off to a rocky start, allowing a double and a single in the first inning before Carlos Lee's three-run homer.

Padres 8, Indians 3, 10 innings

At Cleveland, Kevin Kouzmanoff's grand slam highlighted San Diego's five-run 10th inning, and the Padres beat Cleveland.

San Diego pitchers Baek Cha-seung, Heath Bell (4-3) and Bryan Corey held the Indians to four hits. Baek and Bell combined to retire 23 of 24 hitters, including 19 straight.

Edgar Gonzalez singled with one out in the 10th off Edward Mujica (0-1) and went to third on Brian Giles' double. After Adrian Gonzalez was intentionally walked, Tony Clark walked on a 3-2 pitch. Kouzmanoff hit a 1-1 pitch into the left field bleachers for his 10th home run of the season and third career grand slam.

Rays 4, Marlins 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Matt Garza pitched seven strong innings and Jonny Gomes homered in his first at-bat since serving a five-game suspension for his part in a bench-clearing brawl, leading Tampa Bay past Florida.

Garza (5-3) allowed one run and three hits.

Jason Bartlett's two-run single off Mark Hendrickson (7-5) snapped a 1-all tie in the fourth inning. Dan Wheeler worked a scoreless eighth, and Troy Percival added a perfect ninth to finish the three-hitter for his 15th save in 17 opportunities.

Rockies 2, White Sox 0

At Chicago, Willy Taveras stole a career-high five bases, spot starter Jorge De La Rosa pitched the best game of his career and Colorado snapped Chicago's nine-game home winning streak.

The Rockies won despite going 1-for-15 with runners in scoring position. Taveras failed to score a run despite his five swipes. He has 29 in 31 attempts this season, most in the National League and just five shy of his career high.

De La Rosa struck out a career-high eight and allowed one hit and one walk in five innings.

Orioles 8, Pirates 7

At Baltimore, Oscar Salazar homered in the ninth inning and Ramon Hernandez added a two-out RBI single to end a back-and-forth duel and give Baltimore a win over Pittsburgh.

Baltimore overcame four homers by the Pirates and rallied from deficits of 2-1, 5-4 and 7-6.

Twins 9, Brewers 4, 12 innings

At Milwaukee, Brian Buscher singled with the bases loaded and pinch-hitter Michael Cuddyer hit a two-run triple and scored on an error in the 12th inning to lead Minnesota over Milwaukee.

Prince Fielder thought he'd ended the game with two outs in the 10th inning with a drive off the center-field wall that highlighted the discussion for instant replay. Fielder's shot appeared to hit the yellow line, but not go over the wall after Carlos Gomez attempted a leaping catch. He settled for a triple.

In the 12th, Buscher drove in two runs to break a 4-all tie with his single off reliever Julian Tavarez (0-1), who had loaded the bases with no outs.

Royals 12, Diamondbacks 3

At Phoenix, rookie Mike Aviles had four hits and Kansas City hammered Randy Johnson and Arizona.

Playing in his 10th career game, Aviles doubled twice and singled against Johnson, then homered off reliever Billy Buckner.

The Big Unit (4-4) gave up eight runs, seven of them earned, and 10 hits in 4 1-3 innings. Johnson has 288 career victories but is winless in his last five starts.

Kansas City had 12 runs on 17 hits, both season highs. The Royals' eruption provided plenty of support for Luke Hochevar (4-5), who won for the first time since May 14, a span of six starts.

Athletics 4, Giants 0

At San Francisco, Rich Harden pitched one-hit ball for six innings and matched his season high with nine strikeouts, and Kurt Suzuki hit his first career triple in Oakland's win.

San Francisco starter Matt Cain (3-5), who had a season-high 11 strikeouts, gave up two runs and six hits in seven-plus innings. He is winless in his last six interleague starts.

Braves 9, Angels 4

At Anaheim, California, Charlie Morton won in his major league debut, Brandon Jones hit his first career homer and Mark Teixeira had three RBIs, leading Atlanta over Los Angeles for its first consecutive road wins since April 11-12.

Morton, whose contract was purchased from the Braves' Triple-A Richmond club earlier in the day, allowed three runs and five hits in six innings.

Ervin Santana (8-3) gave up six runs, nine hits and two walks in 5 2-3 innings and struck out six.

Chad Johnson works out at minicamp

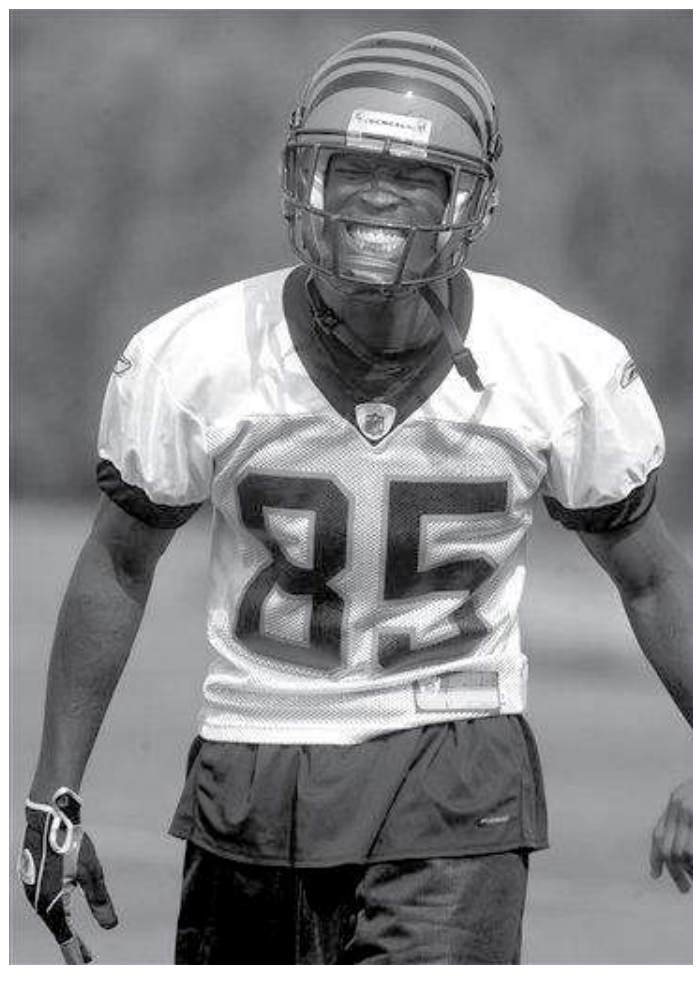
CINCINNATI (AP)—Receiver Chad Johnson fully participated in drills for the first time Saturday as the Cincinnati Bengals wrapped up their minicamp.

The disgruntled receiver limited himself to a few drills during workouts on Thursday and Friday, complaining through his agent that he has a bad ankle. He looked fine during a workout on Saturday, catching passes from Carson Palmer.

He declined to talk to the media again, other than to say "Vote for Obama" as he walked off the field - apparently throwing his support behind Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

"I think it's been good for him to get back into the flow of things," coach Marvin Lewis said. "We still have to get some clarity on the ankle and being able to deal with that because it is something we dealt with a year ago."

Johnson has been lobbying for a trade since the Bengals went 7-9 last season and fans grew weary of his complaints that he's no longer appreciated in Cincinnati. The Bengals refused to deal him, and Johnson threatened to sit out the season. He didn't attend any of the team's voluntary workouts.



AP

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Johnson reacts after participating in a footwork drill at football training camp in Cincinnati, Thursday, June 12, 2008.

He faced a fine if he didn't attend the mandatory, three-day minicamp. Although he showed up for the first day of workouts on Thursday, he barely participated. Agent Drew Rosenhaus said Johnson was bothered by a sore ankle that might need surgery.

The Bengals later said Johnson had an ankle problem last season. The team had urged him to get it surgically cleaned out after the final game, but he chose not to do so.

Johnson was downcast and had little interaction with teammates during the first day of workouts. He was more upbeat the last two days.

Offensive coordinator Bob Bratkowski talked to Johnson at the end of Saturday's workout.

"He's rusty," Bratkowski said. "I told him he looked rusty. Nobody likes to hear that. He's going against guys who have been out here for 14, 16 (voluntary) practices, you know. You're going to look that way."

Mieko takes on Ironman Kansas today

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

One of the CNMI's top triathletes, Meiko Carey, will take part in the 2008 Ironman Kansas 70.3 race set for today in Lawrence.

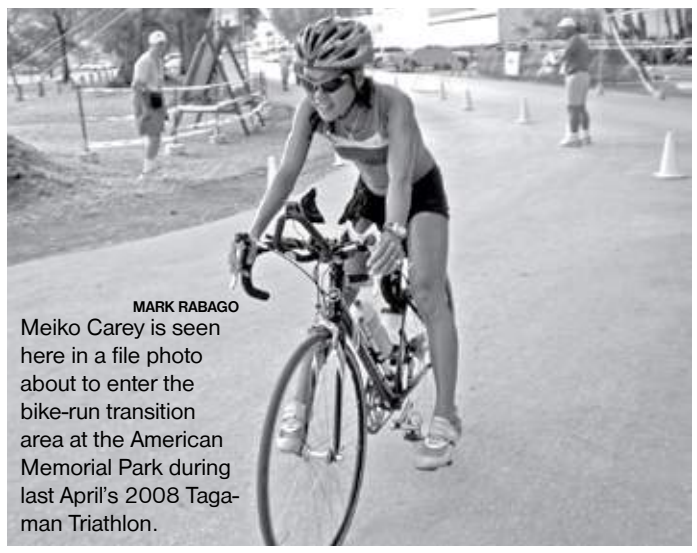
Mieko and her husband, Kevin, left Saipan for Kansas last Thursday to compete in the 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike, and 13.1-mile run triathlon.

According to its website, the 2008 Ironman Kansas will start on the same beach of Bloomington at Clinton Lake. Athletes will swim one rectangular lap counter-clockwise before returning to the beach.

Athletes will then have a short 50m run to the transition for the bike course, where they will leave the park grounds on Clinton Lake and cover the southwestern roads of Douglas County.

Most of the course is known to locals as "The Iron Cross," as participants can expect long, winding, flat stretches matched with steep challenging hills offering lake front views.

The bike course is a single loop course that will intersect the "Iron-Cross" section of 458 and 1023 Roads four times offering a spectator friendly course. Participants will then return to the park grounds of Bloomington Beach at Clinton Lake for the bike-to-run transition.



MARK RABAGO
Meiko Carey is seen here in a file photo about to enter the bike-run transition area at the American Memorial Park during last April's 2008 Tagaman Triathlon.

The run portion of the Kansas Ironman is a three-lap run course that consists of asphalt roads and trails throughout Bloomington Beach Park.

Participants will travel through the winding, shaded roads of Hickory and Cedar Campgrounds. The run begins with a half-mile gradual climb leaving the transition followed by mostly flat miles on asphalt. Runners will enjoy a spectator-friendly run course with constant support before finishing back at the beach area.

Before leaving for the mainland last week, Mieko said she hopes to finish the 2008 Ironman Kansas in just over five hours.

Mieko prepared for the Kansas Ironman with the help of 2008 XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon winner Andy Noble, who gave her a weekly training regimen to follow.

Kevin earlier said her wife will compete in the Kansan Ironman despite the former sustaining injuries a couple of weeks prior to the race after being struck by falling pieces of concrete being carried by a white/gray cement truck speeding down the backroad near San Vicente School.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

To his credit, Castro settled down after the atrocious first inning. The Rota ace came back big time in the second inning by inducing Juan Iguel, John Pangelinan, and Ofero Taitano to a popup and fly outs to leftfield.

And although he gave up a run to Saralu in third, he retired the next three batters capped by striking out Ionis Rasa.

Saipan would knock three more runs in the fourth against Castro before he was finally lifted in favor of Mesngon in the fifth. Down 17-1, Mesngon did his part by striking out Rasa and Dave Camacho and forcing Ryan Lisua to fly out to shortstop.

Now Rota only needed to score eight runs in the bottom of the fifth to avert a 10 run mercy rule-shortened game.

Unfortunately for the hosts, Emul was on target on the plate, delivering three strikes apiece to Atalig and Nuve Manglona before ending the finals and tournament when Juan Lizama flew out to first base.

Tenorio was credited for the win, while Cruz took the loss. Camacho led Saipan with four RBIs, while Iguel and Pangelinan brought home two runners apiece.

With the win, the Saipan Senior All-Stars advance to the 2008 Asia-Pacific Senior Regional Tournament set from June 27 to July 2 at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The team is managed by Derran Flores with Marvin Tydingco and Ray Celis serving as head coach and assistant coach, respectively.

Other members of the Saipan Senior All-Stars are Joshua Jones, Juan Maratita, John Paul Lizama, Eric Tenorio, and Ben Flores.

SWIMMERS

From Page 28

Wong's teammate Kensuke Kimura, for his part, won the May Male Student Athlete of the Month after breaking the 11-12 age group record in the 200m breaststroke during the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships.

The 3:04 he took to finish the event broke Keoni Ichihara's previous record of 3:04.84, which he set way back in 1996.

Saipan Swim Club's Grace Kimball, meanwhile, won the May Female Student Athlete of the Month after she won eight medals in last month's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships.

Kimball took home silver medals in 50m, 100m, 200m, 800m, and 1,500m freestyle, 50m and 100m backstroke, and a bronze in the 400m freestyle.

The lone honoree not coming from swimming for May is Northern Marianas Athletics' Yvonne Bennett.

The Kagman High School student got the nod for Female Athlete of the Month after winning four gold medals in the 2008 McDonald's All Schools Championship held last month at the Oleai Track and Field.

She won the 100m sprint in 13.04, crossed the finish line ahead of the pack in the 200m with a time of 26.94, and then reset her own record in the 400m by checking in at 1:03:50. Bennett then anchored her team in the 4x100m relay en route to the gold medal.

Other athletes nominated for the May plums were Li'amwar Rangamr, Brandon Phillip, and Jesus Iguel, all of NMA.

PNG

From Page 28

ish line in the century dash in a time of 11.96.

Koime, for her part, has an Olympic qualifier to her name—11.37 seconds in the 100m—which was good enough to rank her 100th in the world last year.

Since then, however, Koime has had very little competition and has struggled for many months to overcome injuries.

According to Oceania Athletics, although she is on the comeback trail to claim her spot in the Olympics, she has still not run nearly as fast as she did in 2007. For instance, she finished second in the Australian Nationals in the 100m and 200m last year.

Other sprinters to watch for include Australia's Sarah Busby (12.14 and 25.23 for the 100m and 200m, respectively), Fiji's Makelesi Tumalevu (12.10 in the 100m), and U.S.-bound Betty Burua (PNG) who has run 25.75 seconds in the 200m.

Latai Sikuvea of Tonga also cannot be overlooked as she has done extremely well in the past—frequently without good form prior to the meet.

In the 400m, Wisil is again the favorite as she broke the PNG national record last year with a time of 55.15 seconds.

This year she has concentrated on the 100m and 200m and her form over 400m is not known.

She will be pushed very hard by Burua, who has broken her personal best time several times this year and last week ran 55.58 in Los Angeles.

Also doing well in California is another PNG sprinter, Sharon Henry, who has improved her personal best time to 57.43 seconds.

While PNG sprinters look to be ahead of the rest of the field in the 400m, Fiji's Salote Mereula, an 800m specialist, will be trying to improve her personal best in the event.

Over in the 18-and-under division, the 100m is expected to be a very close battle between Tonga's Vasi Feke, who won her national championship in a time of 12.81, and New Zealand's Olivia Blundell, who has a seed time of 12.89. Next best on times are Samoa's Senara Pulumu and Cook Islands' Patricia Taea.

The 200m has a very large field of 17 competitors led by Fiji's Paulini Korowaqa with a time of 25.16 seconds. Korowaqa was one of the standout performers at the Coca-Cola Light Games held in Suva last April, and won the bronze medal in the 400m in last year's Pacific Games in Apia.

The next fastest seed times come from the two Australians, Shannon Smith (25.41) and Brittany Smith (25.67). With both Feke and Kathryn Kennedy of New Zealand returning times of 26.39, expect a quality race in the 200m.

The 400m will be a fiercely contested event, according to Oceania Athletics, with seven of the runners being in the 57-58 second range.

The fastest seed times are 57.58 by Kennedy, 57.62 by compatriot Vicky Paine and 57.64 from Brittany Smith. However, if Korowaqa can reclaim her 2007 form (56.21) then the title could be hers.

TANAPAG

From Page 28

victims in second place, behind the unblemished mark of pennant champions Rock Steady, at 8-4.

Falcons actually started out strong, as Quitano, Junior Suel, J.D. Dikito, and Norita all crossed home plate following consecutive hits off the normally reliable Sakisat.

Suel would make it a 5-0 lead when he batted in Henry Iguel in the fourth.

Rangers finally scored in the bottom of the fourth inning when Robert Bansil, Flores, and Ben Tagabuel pelted Pete Teigita with hits that resulted in runs by Bansil, Taisacan, and Tagabuel.

Both teams wouldn't score in the next three innings but in the ninth Rangers finally caught up and eventually took the lead on a three-run home run by Taisacan, his second of the season.

Taisacan's three-run roundtripper, which was off Camacho, made it 7-5 as it followed a J.J. Laniyo run on an error by Iguel.

The Falcons only averted a complete collapse when they scored two runs in the ninth and Camacho finally worked his magic to the plate by retiring Laniyo, Pete Tomokane, and Bansil in consecutive order in the ninth.

Camacho took the save after striking out one batter, while surrendering the Taisacan home run and four walks.

Suel was a hitting machine for the Falcons, as the leftfielder went 4-for-5 including four RBIs, and one run.

Quitano also hammered the Rangers' pitchers with a 3-for-4 performance from the plate. He also added a double and a run.

Taisacan was phenomenal in the loss, bringing in three runners after going 2-for-4, including the homerun in the ninth. Sakisat took the loss despite pitching a complete game.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	43	28	.606	–
Tampa Bay	40	28	.588	1
New York	36	33	.522	6
Baltimore	34	33	.507	7
Toronto	35	35	.500	7

Central Division

Chicago	38	30	.559	–
Minnesota	34	35	.493	4
Cleveland	32	37	.464	6
Detroit	31	37	.456	7
Kansas City	27	42	.391	11

West Division

Los Angeles	41	28	.594	–
Oakland	37	31	.544	3
Texas	34	35	.493	7
Seattle	24	44	.353	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	41	29	.586	–
Florida	36	32	.529	4
Atlanta	34	35	.493	6
New York	32	34	.485	7
Washington	28	42	.400	13

Central Division

Chicago	44	25	.638	–
St. Louis	41	29	.586	3
Milwaukee	35	33	.515	8
Houston	33	36	.478	11
Pittsburgh	33	36	.478	11
Cincinnati	33	37	.471	11

West Division

Arizona	37	32	.536	–
Los Angeles	31	37	.456	5
San Diego	31	39	.443	6
San Francisco	30	39	.435	7
Colorado	27	41	.397	9

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 6, Toronto 2
Detroit 12, L.A. Dodgers 7
Boston 6, Cincinnati 4, 10 innings
St. Louis 3, Philadelphia 2
Tampa Bay 4, Florida 1
Minnesota 9, Milwaukee 4, 12 innings
N.Y. Yankees 8, Houston 4
San Diego 8, Cleveland 3, 10 innings
Colorado 2, Chicago White Sox 0
Baltimore 8, Pittsburgh 7
Texas at N.Y. Mets, ppd., rain
Kansas City 12, Arizona 3
Oakland 4, San Francisco 0
Atlanta 9, L.A. Angels 4
Washington 5, Seattle

U.S. OPEN SCORES

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Scores Saturday in the U.S. Open on Torrey Pines' 7,643-yard, par-71 South Course (a-amateur):

THIRD ROUND

Tiger Woods	72-68-70	210
Lee Westwood	70-71-70	211
Rocco Mediate	69-71-72	212
Geoff Ogilvy	69-73-72	214
D.J. Trahan	72-69-73	214
Hunter Mahan	72-74-69	215
Camilo Villegas	73-71-71	215
Robert Allenby	70-72-73	215
Miguel Angel Jimenez	75-66-74	215
Robert Karlsson	70-70-75	215
Mike Weir	73-74-69	216
Sergio Garcia	76-70-70	216
John Merrick	73-72-71	216
Ernie Els	70-72-74	216
Brandt Snedeker	76-73-68	217
Brandt Jobe	73-75-69	217
Oliver Wilson	72-71-74	217
Davis Love III	72-69-76	217
Aaron Baddeley	74-73-71	218
Jim Furyk	74-71-73	218
Martin Kaymer	75-70-73	218
Scott Verplank	72-72-74	218
Stuart Appleby	69-70-79	218
Ryuji Imada	74-75-70	219
Anthony Kim	74-75-70	219
Boo Weekley	73-76-70	219
Jeff Quinney	79-70-70	219
Eric Axley	69-79-71	219
Tim Clark	73-72-74	219
Patrick Sheehan	71-74-74	219
Rod Pampling	74-70-75	219
Rob Dinwiddie	73-71-75	219
Carl Pettersson	71-71-77	219
Luke Donald	71-71-77	219
Steve Stricker	73-76-71	220
Chad Campbell	77-72-71	220
David Toms	76-72-72	220
Trevor Immelman	75-73-72	220
Joe Ogilvie	71-76-73	220
a-Mike Thompson	74-73-73	220
Rory Sabbatini	73-72-75	220
Todd Hamilton	74-74-73	221
Adam Scott	73-73-75	221
Dustin Johnson	74-72-75	221
Andres Romero	71-73-77	221
Woody Austin	72-72-77	221
Andrew Svoboda	77-71-74	222
Justin Leonard	75-72-75	222
Jon Mills	72-75-75	222
Matt Kuchar	73-73-76	222
Phil Mickelson	71-75-76	222
Brett Quigley	73-72-77	222
D.A. Points	74-71-77	222
Padraig Harrington	78-67-77	222
Retief Goosen	76-69-77	222
Stewart Cink	72-73-77	222
John Rollins	75-68-79	222
Heath Slocum	75-74-74	223
Alastair Forsyth	76-73-74	223
Jarrod Lyle	75-74-74	223
Daniel Chopra	73-75-75	223
Pat Perez	75-73-75	223
Justin Hicks	68-80-75	223
Bart Bryant	75-70-78	223
Kevin Streelman	68-77-78	223
Soren Hansen	78-70-76	224
Ian Leggatt	72-76-76	224
Ben Crane	75-72-77	224
a-Derek Fathauer	73-73-78	224
a-Rickie Fowler	70-79-76	225
Paul Casey	79-70-76	225
Vijay Singh	71-78-76	225
Nick Watney	73-75-77	225
Stephen Ames	74-74-77	225
Jesper Parnevik	77-72-77	226
Ross McGowan	76-72-78	226
John Mallinger	73-75-78	226
Chris Kirk	75-74-78	227
Andrew Dresser	76-73-79	228
Rich Beem	74-74-80	228

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2008 Miller-Lite 4-Person Beach V-Ball League

PHOTOS BY MARK RABAGO

A Tsunami player serves during their game against Angan.

From left, Dan Westphal, Nick Swaim, Nicole LeBlanc, and Bruce Berline of 15 of Fame won the championship of the 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League Thursday night after beating Kiss My Pass in the finals at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

Angan's Sydney serves during their game against Tsunami.

Far left, Herbalizers players pose during a break in the playoffs of the 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League Thursday at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

Left, Tsunami players during a break in the playoffs of the 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League Thursday at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

Right, Angan finished fourth in the 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League.

Far right, the Angan and Tsunami match had a lot of intense action on the net.

Angan's Sydney spikes the ball as a Tsunami player goes up for a block during their playoff game Thursday night. Angan won 15-9.

MHS Peers pose before their first round playoff match against eventual 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League champions 15 of Fame.

Pennant champions Kiss My Pass players pose as the playoffs of the 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League kicked off Thursday at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

Mieko takes on Ironman Kansas today

One of the CNMI's top triathletes, Meiko Carey, will take part in the 2008 Ironman Kansas 70.3 race set for today in Lawrence.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tiger delivers prime-time performance

Tiger Woods delivered a performance worthy of prime time Saturday in the U.S. Open. He kept an East Coast television audience and a sellout crowd at Torrey Pines in suspense .

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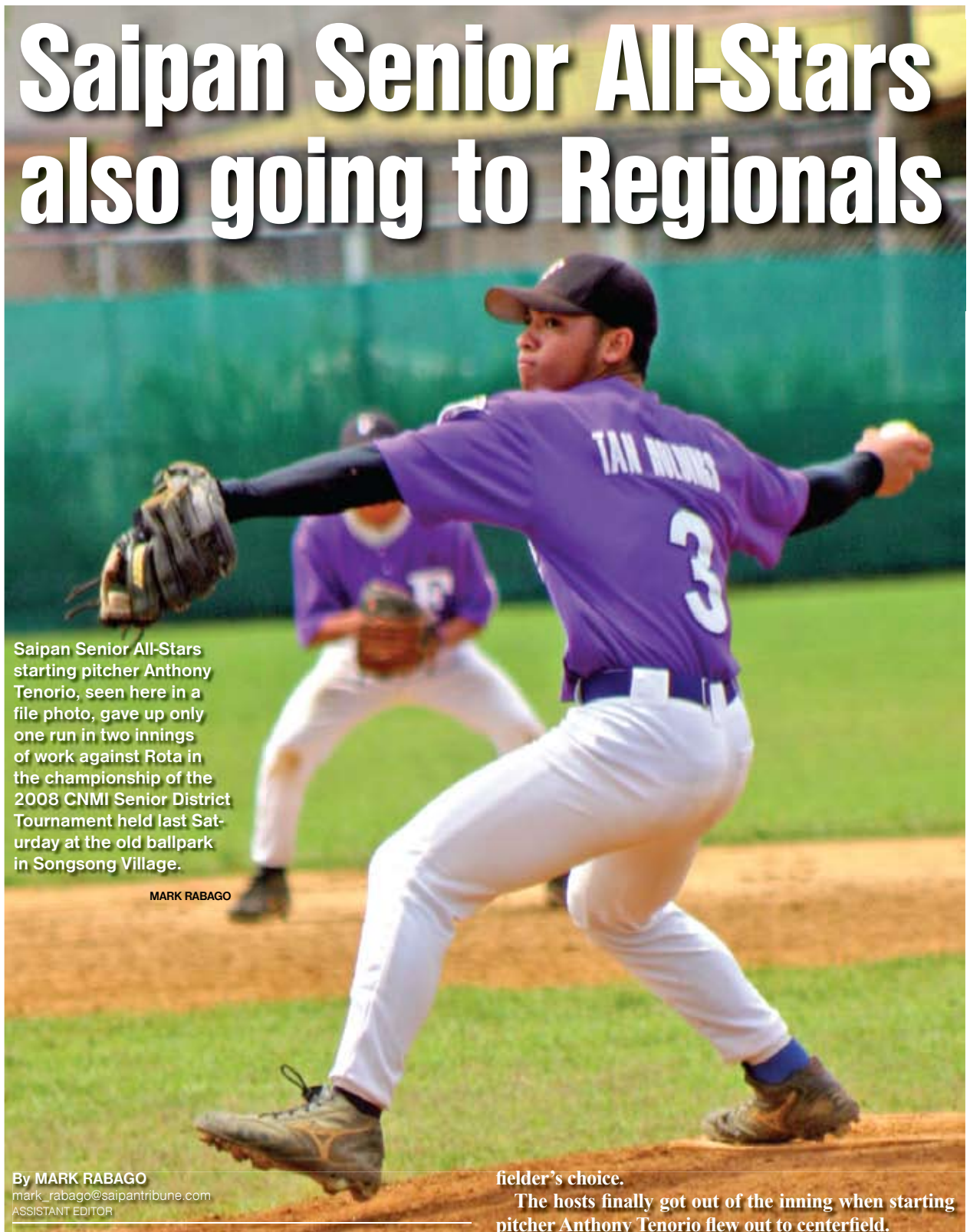
Saipan Senior All-Stars also going to Regionals



Saipan Senior All-Stars starting pitcher Anthony Tenorio, seen here in a file photo, gave up only one run in two innings of work against Rota in the championship of the 2008 CNMI Senior District Tournament held last Saturday at the old ballpark in Songsong Village.

MARK RABAGO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Saipan Senior All-Stars bludgeoned Rota, 17-1, in the championship of the 2008 CNMI Senior District Tournament held last Saturday at the old ballpark in Songsong Village.

A day after Friday the 13th, Saipan's batters pummeled Rota starting pitcher Chris Joe Castro with 13 runs on hits aplenty in the bottom of the first inning.

Saipan had such a field day against Castro that the score was already 7-0 when Eric Tenorio was tagged out at third.

It took another four home plate crossings before Rota had its second out when Nokki Saralu went down on a fielder's choice.

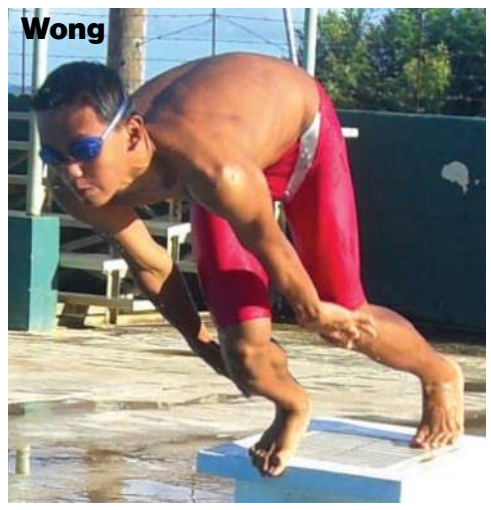
The hosts finally got out of the inning when starting pitcher Anthony Tenorio flew out to centerfield.

Giving up the third out notwithstanding, Tenorio was simply a stud for the Saipan Senior All-Stars. He started out by hurling strikeouts to Juan Lizama and Daniel Rangamar before retiring Blaine Mesngon on a come-backer.

Rota scored its lone run on the second inning when Gary Toves Jr. reached home plate on a sacrifice fly by Nature Atalig, but other than that it was lights out for Rota's batters as Tenorio was simply unhittable in two innings of action.

His replacements also proved as deadly, as Tommy Agulto and Wally Emul Jr. combined for three innings

See SAIPAN on Page 26



Swimmers dominate May NMASA awards

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ATHLETES of the MONTH

Three swimmers and one from athletics were named Athletes of the Month for May by the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association during its meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Winning the May Male Athlete of the Month was Rezne Wong of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan after the 17-year-old Marianas High School student shattered a national and an age group record in last month's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships held in the Hagatna Pool.

Wong won the gold medal in the 100m breaststroke but more importantly the 1:10:91 he took to complete the event shattered the CNMI national record of 1:11.69 set in 1989 by Brent Thompson.

Wong's 100m breaststroke was also a new age group record, as it thumped the 1:11.70 recorded by Justin Pierce in the same event back in 1999

The May Athlete of the Month award is also Wong's third for the year after also winning in February and April this year.

See SWIMMERS on Page 26

Tanapag forces second place tie with Rangers

By MARK RABAGO
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Police officer Ned Norita's theft in the 10th coupled by Darson Camacho's save in the bottom of the inning allowed Tanapag Falcons to nip Ford Rangers, 8-7, in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League Friday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

After the first nine innings ended in a 7-7 deadlock, Norita gave the defending champions a lead-off runner in the 10th when he singled off Mel Sakisat.

He reached second when B.J. Sablan was forced out at first and went to third when Camacho grounded out to shortstop.

With Mike Pangelinan advancing to first base on a base on ball, Norita put on his running shoes and headed toward home plate where he scored to make it 8-7.

Norita's run proved to be the marginal score as Camacho worked wonders from the plate, forcing Rangers slugger Benwachi Taisacan to fly out to centerfield for the first out, inducing Franco Flores to ground out to third base, before getting some help when Dustin Quitano caught Dung Tenorio's fly ball to third.

The win allowed Tanapag to tie their

See PNG on Page 26

PNG athletes are favored in sprints

By MARK RABAGO
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Papua New Guinea's Toea Wisil and Mae Koime are the women to beat in the sprint events of the 2008 Oceania Championships set here on Saipan from June 25 to 28 at the Oleai Track and Field.

According to the Oceania Athletics Association website, Wisil is slightly favored over her compatriot despite just coming back from an injury.

Wisil proved that she's literally on the right track for a comeback after doing well in a series of events in Brisbane, Australia, and California.

She also recently shattered her personal best time in the 200m by running it in 24.13 and then sprinted to the fin-

See PNG on Page 26